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Yugoslavia backs Mideast conference

CAIRO (R) — Yugoslav Prime Minister Branko Mitlic said Saturday after talks with Egyptian officials his country supported a proposed international peace conference in the Middle East. Mr. Mitlic, who arrived earlier Saturday on a two-day official visit, was quoted by the national Middle East News Agency (MENA) as saying all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), should take part. His remarks followed more than two hours of talks with his Egyptian counterpart Atif Sedki on promoting bilateral economic cooperation. Mr. Mitlic also said the Iran-Iraq war was a threat to world peace and called for dialogue to put an end to "the meaningless conflict," MENA reported. Dr. Sedki was quoted by MENA as saying both countries shared the same views on international questions. The two sides signed two agreements. Under the first Egyptians and Yugoslavs would enjoy the same insurance rights in each other's country. The second aims at preventing double taxation which would ease capital movement between Cairo and Belgrade, MENA said.

Abu Taleb in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, arrived in Baghdad on Saturday at the head of a military delegation visiting Iraq for several days. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the visit "falls within the framework of continued brotherly meetings and relations" between the two countries.

Iraqi leader gets Chirac's message

NICOSIA (AP) — French Foreign Trade Minister Michel Noir met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Saturday and handed him a message from President Jacques Chirac on bilateral relations, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The news agency did not disclose the contents of the message. INA also said Mr. Noir discussed with Taha Yassin Ramadan, deputy prime minister and member of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, "means of developing bilateral relations in economic spheres." It gave no other details of the discussions with Mr. Ramadan.

Assad accepts two ministers' resignation

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad has accepted the resignations of Syria's agriculture and construction ministers after they were accused of mismanagement. Two presidential decrees published on Saturday reported the resignations but gave no reasons. Building (Construction) Minister Riad Baghdadat quit after parliament passed a non-confidence resolution on June 17 accusing him of negligence. The minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, Mahmoud Al Kurd, a member of the ruling Baath Party, resigned on Thursday after the cabinet asked him to step down. New ministers have not yet been announced.

Tamils seek Indian recognition of separate state

COLOMBO (R) — Thousands of Sri Lankan Tamils in Jaffna have handed a petition to Indian Red Cross officials, urging India to recognise a separate Tamil state, Jaffna newspapers said Saturday. The Eelam and Eelamurasu newspapers said the petition was presented by thousands of people after a march in Jaffna city. Officials from the Indian Red Cross and Indian high commission (embassy) have been in Jaffna since Thursday to help distribute Indian relief supplies to Jaffna Tamils under an agreement with the Sri Lankan government.

Weinberger begins visit to Japan

TOKYO (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger arrived in Tokyo on Saturday for talks on Japan's new fighter plane, high-tech trade with the Soviet Union and defence issues. In his scheduled meetings with Defence Agency Director-General Yuko Kurihara, Mr. Weinberger is expected to discuss Japan's choice of a new fighter and Tokyo's indirect support for the U.S. presence in the Gulf, the source for about two-thirds of Japan's crude oil originates.

INSIDE

- Soviets may help mine-sweeping operations in Gulf, page 2
- Percy and McGovern call for more active U.S. role in Mideast peace efforts, page 3
- Time for prudent financial policy, by Fahed Fakel, page 4
- Jordan's energy consumption drops, page 5
- Field wide open for Wimbledon men's title after Becker's ouster, page 6
- Lebanon's banks move offshore for survival, page 7
- U.N. conference vows to take tough action against drugs, page 8

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراية

Volume 12 - Number 3511

AMMAN, SUNDAY JUNE 28, 1987, DHUL QAIDA 2, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Jordanian and Turkish leaders discuss Mideast issues and bilateral ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

ANKARA — His Majesty King Hussein and Turkish President Kenan Evren held a round of talks on Saturday on current international issues with special focus on the ongoing efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two leaders, on the second day of the King's visit to Turkey, also exchanged views on developing Jordanian-Turkish relations and means of further bolstering them in the interest of the peoples of the two countries. The King and General Evren, who on Friday supported Jordan's call for an international

conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict under U.N. auspices, also discussed means to end the almost seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Ankara Radio said the two leaders reviewed the Middle East situation as well as defence cooperation between Jordan and Turkey. The talks were attended on the



King's visit to Turkey would contribute to further strengthening Jordanian-Turkish relations and cooperation. In a reply speech, the King voiced appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and the delegation accompanying on his visit and expressed satisfaction with the level of relations with the two countries. Earlier, the prime minister of Turkey and his wife paid a courtesy call on the King and Queen. Mr. Rifai and Mr. Ozal held a separate meeting on Saturday. They discussed Jordanian-Tur-



kish relations and means to further promote bilateral cooperation. Queen Noor visited the Atatürk Orphanage in Ankara on Saturday. She toured the orphanage and was briefed on its activities. The Queen was also briefed on various aspects of Turkish culture. Following the lunch given by Mr. Ozal, the Jordanian delegation toured a factory producing F-16 fighter planes for the Turkish air force. Turkey has been keen to win foreign warplane servicing contracts for the plant, Reuters said.

Britain 'has no plans' to join Reagan's move towards Syria

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain, which broke off diplomatic relations with Syria last year over an alleged plot to blow up an Israeli airliner, said Saturday it had no plans to follow a U.S. initiative to improve relations with Damascus.

The Foreign Office said Saturday that Britain had not been surprised by the U.S. initiative but had no plans to follow suit at the moment. "No such action is envisaged," a spokesman said.

Britain's preconditions for improving relations with Syria remained unchanged, he added. "We want sustained evidence that Syria has ceased to support terrorism," he said.

U.S. spokesmen said on Friday that President Ronald Reagan had sent a letter to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad proposing talks to overcome the strain between the two countries and had already received a "generally positive" answer.

The Foreign Office spokesman said the move had not been surprised. "We could not have been as the matter has been thoroughly discussed," he added, referring to talks between Mr. Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at the Venice summit of the seven major industrial democracies this month.

London broke off diplomatic relations with Damascus last October after an Arab was jailed by a British court for allegedly trying to blow up an Israeli airliner flying from London's Heathrow airport.

The United States withdrew its ambassador from Damascus in protest against alleged Syrian involvement in the plot.

Foreign Office sources, citing the closure of the Damascus offices of the guerrilla extremist Abu Nidal, said Britain welcomed recent signals from Syria. "Syria's action in expelling Abu Nidal is the result of successful Western pressure orchestrated by the U.K.," a source quoted by Reuters said.

The British government will discuss the development with its partners in the European Community, possibly next month, according to the sources.

In Damascus, Syrian officials declined comment and the media Saturday ignored reports from Washington that the United States was sending a special envoy to Syria to discuss American hostages held in Lebanon and other issues.

The state-controlled newspapers and radio did not mention the U.S. State Department announcement Friday that an unnamed envoy would travel to Syria in the next few weeks to meet with President Assad.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the envoy would discuss Middle East peace efforts, terrorism and foreign hostages in Lebanon. They include nine Americans.

Syrian officials declined comment on the U.S. special envoy. "If they want to send an envoy, he's welcome. It's their decision. Why should we comment?" said one official, who did not want to be named, told AP.

U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman Friday said

that Secretary of State George Shultz, who just returned to Washington after nearly four weeks of official visits to Asia and elsewhere, was consulted and had approved of the overture to Mr. Assad.

But Redman seemed to downplay the initiative, saying even after Ambassador William Eagleton was withdrawn from Damascus last year, the United States has continued to talk with Syria on such issues as Middle East peace prospects and hostages.

Washington "lowered its diplomatic representation (but) we did not break diplomatic relations," he said.

"We've had contact with them through our charge in Damascus for some time since our ambassador was withdrawn and this is part of a continuing process of dialogue with the Syrian government," he said.

"This envoy is a one-time step. I think you should look at it more in that context than in some sort of lifting of some overall policy," he added.

Like Fitzwater, Redman refused to specify what changes in Syrian behaviour prompted the Reagan letter.

Redman denied the decision to send the envoy was connected with recent Syrian efforts to obtain the release of U.S. hostages held by fundamentalists in Lebanon. "There is no linkage," he said Syria remained on the department's list of countries that support "terrorism."

U.S. overture to Syria is 'long overdue,' page 2.

OPEC reaches accord to defend current prices

VIENNA (Agencies) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has reached agreement to limit production this year to defend its \$18 per barrel oil price, Indonesian Energy Minister Subroto said Saturday.

Mr. Subroto told reporters OPEC was to issue a final statement later Saturday after three days of meetings. "A final communiqué has been drafted already," he told reporters.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said the group agreed to accept a ceiling of 16.6 million barrels per day (bpd) to the end of the year, a compromise between its radical wing and more moderate bloc.

The ministers were speaking before what was expected to be the final plenary session of the conference at the OPEC headquarters here.

Independent analysts in Vienna said they believed the agreement was likely to succeed in keeping oil prices steady, at least through the summer.

Fawzi Shakshuki, the Libyan oil minister, said earlier there were "no obstacles."

Sources in other delegations, however, said Kuwait had raised objections, based on its fear that the new production target was so low that prices might rise above \$18 a barrel.

Kuwait and some other Gulf members of OPEC want prices to stay level for a longer period in order to encourage a long-term revival in world oil demand.

Mr. Subroto said the agreement called for a scaled-back increase in the group's production ceiling for the second half of the year.

Mr. Subroto said Iraq was not expected to sign the deal, although the overall production target of 16.6 million barrels a day for the July-December period would include a national quota for Iraq.

OPEC's current production limit, due to expire June 30, is 15.8 million barrels a day. Because some members are exceeding their assigned quotas, the actual total is estimated at about 17 million barrels daily.

The Baghdad government has refused to participate in OPEC production-sharing deals since the current system was adopted last December. It says it will not cooperate with its OPEC partners until they agree to its demand for production equality with Iran.

Iran contends it must have a bigger share than Iraq, based on such criteria as national population, historical production rates and oil reserves.

8 face subversion charge in Kuwait

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Six Kuwaitis and a foreigner went on trial here Saturday accused of seeking to topple the government.

Eight other Kuwaitis were charged with obstructing attempts to arrest one of six nationals sentenced to death three weeks ago for sabotage at an oil plant last June and January.

Diplomats said it was not clear what sentences Saturday's accused faced if found guilty, mainly because of their ages.

The first seven, including three minors of whom one is still at large, were accused in the state security court of "inciting the overthrow of the country's regime by unlawful and violent means," the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said.

The defendants, aged 17 to 25 and mostly students, are accused of spreading their message in pamphlets distributed last April and May.

They also stand accused of slandering the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who in May 1985 survived a car-bomb attack for which an Iraqi was sentenced last November to hang.

Eight Kuwaiti men, aged 20 to 35 and mostly public sector employees, went on trial on Saturday accused of obstructing the court's justice and attacking security men in a riot last January 30, during which a policeman was shot and injured.

The disturbance took place as police tried to cordon off the home of one of those sentenced to death three weeks ago. He is still at large.

Mubarak receives Kuwaiti message

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday received a letter from the Kuwaiti emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, believed to concern the current threats to shipping in the Gulf. Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Atsiki, the emir's envoy, delivered the letter when he met Mr. Mubarak immediately after arrival. He told reporters it dealt with the latest situation in the Gulf region, but declined to elaborate. Asked whether Kuwait is seeking Egyptian help to clear mines from Kuwait's coastal waters, he said: "I'm not here to discuss such issues." Egypt gained experience on mine clearance when a multinational fleet helped sweep the northern and southern ends of the Gulf of Suez in 1984 after a series of explosions that damaged about 18 vessels. Egyptian officials at the time said they suspected Libyan or Iranian involvement, which both Tripoli and Tehran denied. A state-owned newspaper, Al Ahrar, reported this week from Washington that Sheikh Jaber was sending an envoy to ask Mr. Mubarak for Egyptian advice on mine-sweeping techniques.

Bomb explodes in Haifa injuring two

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A bomb exploded Saturday near a crowded beach in the northern port of Haifa, injuring a woman and her seven-year-old son, police said.

The woman was taken to hospital suffering serious injuries but her son was only slightly hurt. Police said they had arrested

Iranian gunboats attack 2 tankers off Saudi coast

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran ended its five-week break in attacks on merchant vessels in the Gulf on Saturday with gunboat raids on two supertankers off Saudi Arabia.

The raids, after fresh Iraqi attempts to cripple Iran's oil lifeline, came as Washington said the battleship Missouri would deploy off Iran in August to deter any attacks on U.S. vessels.

The "tanker war" upsurge follows an Iranian warning that Tehran is ready to confront the United States in the Gulf.

Gulf-based shipping sources said five crewmen were injured in the attacks on the two supertankers, which were hit before dawn off Saudi Arabia within about one hour of each other.

The chief engineer was seriously injured and two other crewmen less badly hurt when missiles fired from two fast launches hit the 224,604-tonne Norwegian ship Mia Margrethe and set the engine room ablaze.

Earlier reports from shipping sources said the chief engineer had died of his injuries. But they later said he had been ferried by helicopter to hospital in Saudi Arabia.

Less than an hour later, as the Mia Margrethe burned, Iranian gunboats swept out of the darkness to hit the Stena Concordia about 32 kilometres off the Saudi coast, shipping executives reported.

At least two crewmen, and possibly four, were slightly wounded aboard the Liberian-flag tanker, the executives said. Damage was described as minor.

The shipping officials believe the gunboats darted out from the small Iranian island of Farsiyah in the central sector of the Gulf to launch their strikes.

It is the first time that the Iranians have hit two ships within an hour of each other since the start of the so-called "tanker war," an offshoot of the Iran-Iraq conflict, in February 1984.

Saudi Arabian vessels rushed to aid the Mia Margrethe after its captain radioed a distress signal. They helped the Norwegians put out the fire that blazed for several hours.

The tanker was partially loaded with 90,500 tonnes of Kuwaiti crude and was heading for Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura terminal to lift more oil. The Stena Concordia was en route for Kuwait when it was hit.

Iran's chief defence spokesman and parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, quoted by Tehran Radio, said:

Iraq says Iranian push thwarted and strategic peaks recaptured

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Saturday its forces had beaten back three assaults by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the mountains of northeast Iraq and recaptured strategic peaks, killing at least 1,000 Iranian fighters.

But Iran said the Revolutionary Guards mauled several brigades of Iraq's elite troops in fierce night battles and had advanced into Iraqi territory in a two-pronged offensive.

Tehran's Islamic Republic News Agency charged that Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs in an apparent effort to blunt the latest Iranian push in the six-and-a-half-year-old Gulf war.

The fighting in the rugged Kurdistan mountains, where the Iraqis and their Kurdish guerrilla allies have been escalating attacks in recent weeks, appeared to be intense, with both sides reporting heavy clashes.

Baghdad's Iraqi News Agency INA has said Iraqi troops of the First, Second and Fourth army corps recaptured three ridges during the night. Three other peaks stormed by the Iraqis were reported retaken Friday.

But INA claimed Saturday that tank-led human wave counter-attacks by Iraqi commandos and Presidential Guards units were repulsed in the mountains during the night. It said thousands of Iraqis were killed or wounded in a counter-attack Friday aimed at recapturing the garrison town of Mawat.

The Iraqis claimed they seized the town a week ago in the northern prong of the offensive through the Kurdistan mountains that lie at the northern end of the 1,180-kilometre front. Iraq said Friday its forces decimated 40 of an estimated 70 regiments of Revolutionary Guards opposing them. Baghdad Radio reported that

the bodies of hundreds of dead Iraqis littered the mountain battlefield. IRNA quoted military communiques in Tehran as saying seven Iraqi warplanes have been shot down in the last 48 hours by anti-aircraft fire north of Penjin inside Iraq and that more than 800 Iraqis had been killed in the southern sector of the offensive. INA quoted an Iraqi military spokesman as denying that any of its jets had been downed.

The deployment of the presidential guards underlined how seriously the Iraqis viewed the fighting. The crack units are usually held in reserve and committed in battle when the Iraqi army is being hard pressed by the Iraqis.

The Iraqi agency reported that the people of Sulaimaniyah took to the streets Saturday to celebrate Iraq's "decisive victory... and the annihilation of thousands of enemy troops."

(Continued on page 3)

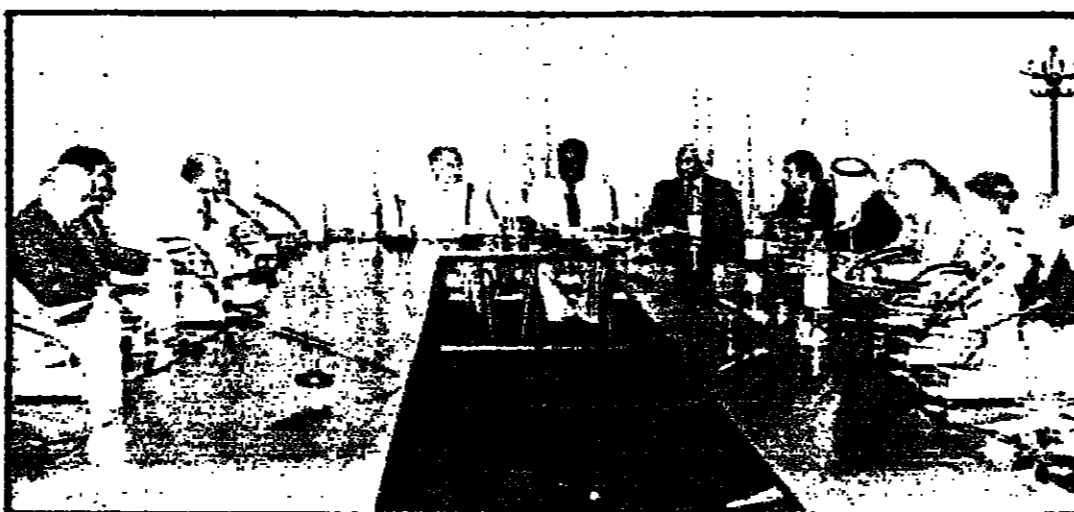
Panel on Palestinian refugees opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — Israel's colonization of occupied Arab territory, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) assistance to the Palestinian refugees will be the main topics of a conference involving Arab countries and organisations involved with the refugee problem.

The conference is scheduled to open in Amman today. An announcement said that delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, the Arab League and the Arab League's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) will discuss these issues along with resolutions of earlier meetings during their week long meeting starting on Sunday.

Jordan, Lebanon and Syria are the primary countries hosting Palestinian refugees. Their meeting in Amman will be the 39th and will be devoted to subjects concerning Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied Arab lands.

The Cabinet had earlier formed Jordan's delegation to the conference. It will be led by Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. It will also include Mr. Usama Tabboub, director of refugees affairs, Dr. Nour Dajani, director of social services, and Mr. Mousa Atef.



The delegation from the American-Arab Affairs Council, headed by former U.S. senators Mr. Charles Percy and Mr. George McGovern, meets with the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign

Affairs Committee on Saturday. The committee's chairman, Mr. Rezaq Al Batayneh (centre), briefs the delegation on Jordan's efforts to hold an international peace conference (Petra photo)

Percy, McGovern assail U.S. inertia on peace conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A delegation from the Washington-based American-Arab Affairs Council (AAAC), including former U.S. senators, Mr. Charles Percy and George McGovern, concluded a visit to Jordan by calling on the United States to take a more active role in the search for Middle East peace and voicing support for Jordan's call for an international Middle East peace conference.

"I support King Hussein's position on a peace conference involving the United Nations Security Council," said Mr. Percy, a Republican and former U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman.

Mr. Percy and Mr. McGovern, one time Democratic presidential nominee, are heading the delegation which has been received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein to discuss the Middle East situation.

"The King wants the United States to take an active, constructive role," Mr. Percy said. "U.S. influence is essential to bring about the conditions for swapping land for peace," Mr. Percy added.

Mr. McGovern joined Mr. Percy in calling on Washington to take a more active role in the area.

Mr. McGovern, in a meeting with Mr. Rezaq Al Batayneh, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, said a large

sector of the American public believes that the U.S. policy with regard to the Middle East is totally biased towards Israel. "We will do all that we can to bring about a change in this policy and to make it more balanced and truly expressing the principles and the position of the American people," Mr. McGovern was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. McGovern also paid tribute to King Hussein and said that Jordan enjoys respect in the United States thanks to King Hussein's balanced policies and his genuine endeavours for peace.

"King Hussein is well-known in the U.S. congress as a moderate leader in the Middle East and this is a great asset for Jordan which has been able to attain an important position within the world community," Mr. McGovern added.

Mr. Percy was quoted by Petra as saying that "there can be no

peace in the Middle East region unless the Palestinians are given their legitimate rights in their homeland and allowed to set up their state within a confederation with Jordan."

The former senator was quoted as telling Mr. Batayneh that the AAAC has supported King Hussein's call for an international Middle East peace conference and will continue efforts to enlist support for such a conference from the American public.

Mr. Percy said that he had always supported the Arab cause when he was chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and that he has been critical of the present administration's policies with regard to the Middle East.

"I also condemned Israel's invasion of South Lebanon and adhere strongly to my position despite Zionist pressures and defamation campaign which led to losing my seat in the Senate," Mr. Percy said at the meeting which was attended by the Lower House's secretary general.

The AAAC delegation also met with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali, and Minister of Information Mohammad Khatib.

Mr. Percy met separately with Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud to discuss U.S. assistance to Jordan.

The delegation is headed to Bahrain and after that to Egypt.

Jerash Festival promises to be int'l cultural extravaganza

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Offering tourists, archaeologists and scholars thousands of years of history all year round, the ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash will be offering hundreds of thousands of spectators a cultural extravaganza from July 8 to 31.

Begun in 1980, the Jerash Cultural Festival has become a landmark in Jordan's cultural life. "The festival is not only Jordanian, it is an international festival held in Jordan and organised by Jordanians," said Michael Hamarneh, under secretary of the Ministry of Information.

At a press conference held at the ministry, Saturday, Mr. Hamarneh outlined the preparations made by the festival's Higher National Committee, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor, and explained the performances that will be staged during the three weeks of festivities.

He said that 550 performers from 17 countries have been invited to attend the sixth Jerash Festival.

From Spain, Maria Rosa, a famous flamenco dancer and her troupe will stage a vivid show, while the Caracalla Dance Theatre, one of the leading Arab dancing groups, will present Eastern heritage in a ballet form of dance.

The Soviet Union, renowned for its ballet dance, will send the Moscow State Ballet Theatre, one of the most distinguished groups of modern ballet.

Yet another ballet will be part of the programme, but this time from the West. Adolph Adam's Romantic ballet, "Giselle," will be performed on the opening night by the London City Ballet, who were last in Jordan for the 1985 Jerash Festival.

Several folklore troupes from Egypt, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Iraq, Syria and Tunisia, will display an array of rich and colourful traditional dances.

Two groups from the United States will present different forms of art. The Young Strings in Action will play a joint concert with students of Jordan's National Music Conservatory. A new musical about the adventures of

Aladdin and his magic lamp will be performed by the Empire State Institute Group.

Dureid Lahham, and well-known Syrian actor, will act in a play written by Mohammad Maghout culled, "Shakak Al Nu'man." Another Arab performer, Romeo Lahhoud, will revive the memories of Lebanese nights as he sings with Salwa Oatib.

Italy and Poland will stage two shows, in which puppets, not humans, are the main attraction.

China will present traditional acrobatic acts, such as "hand-stands on stacked chairs," "lion dance," and "plate spinning."

On the local level, there will be close to 30 groups performing, Mr. Hamarneh said.

Four prominent folklore groups were chosen to display Jordanian heritage. They will include the Fuhais Music Group, who will present Muwashahat (Andalusian) and folklore songs; the Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe, who will display the traditional dances, songs and costumes from various regions of the Kingdom.

A group formed by the Association of Jordanian Musicians, Al Nagam Al Arabi Group, the Yarmouk University Group, the Radio Jordan Orchestra, and the Jordanian Armed Forces Band, will also present traditional Jordanian and oriental music and songs.

In addition, the festival will include three Arabic children plays: "Amo Amin," "Tree of Wisdom" and "The dancing butterflies." An adaptation of the famous play, "Barber of Baghdad," will also be performed.

All the shows will be held in either the Southern, Sound and Light, or Artemis theatres at Jerash.

Mr. Hamarneh noted that two additional gates have been opened in order to facilitate crowds entering and exiting from the ruins.

Makeshift theatres and facilities for the performers, platforms, restaurants and other services have already been set up. One company, Al Diwan, has been assigned to supervise catering, cleanliness, price, weight and continuity of the food, he said.

Mr. Hamarneh estimated that the festival has cost between JD 250,000 and 300,000. The entrance fees to the shows range between JD 1 to 6.

He added that the shows and the festival as a whole are not profit seeking. "We want to encourage culture exchange and understanding."

The activities will not stop after July 31. According to Mr. Hamarneh: "In September, at a theatre festival, we hope to have a Shakespearean play, and in November, a folklore group from Egypt, Al Ridah, will be coming to Jordan."

He explained that the Arab poets will not take part in the Jerash Festival this year because "a poetic festival will be held for Arab writers and playwrights in the Arab World later this year."

In conclusion, Mr. Hamarneh said that this festival has helped to promote Arab art and given it a chance to appear on the international level. "We hope this festival will project pan-Arab culture to the East and West," he said. (See programme, p. 5)

Arab children to share culture, fun

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) announced that it will organise a 10-day Arab Children's Conference in Jordan to open on July 2 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

It said in a statement that programmes have been worked out for entertaining the children between the ages of 10 and 13, and for taking them around the Kingdom to visit places of interest.

The conference includes among other activities a symposium and folk performances depicting national traditions and dances from various Arab countries represented in the 10-day affair.

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This year's event will be the seventh in a row, and the NHF has extended invitations to Arab states to send four children each for the activities which were originally initiated by Queen Noor in 1979.

According to the NHF director general, a total of 350 children have so far taken part in past conferences in the Kingdom.

Iraq to buy \$4m worth of eggs

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Jordan is to sell table eggs to Iraq worth \$4 million from now until the end of the year, in accordance with an agreement signed here Saturday.

Mr. Suleiman Irtimeh, president of the Jordan Society for the Production and Marketing of Eggs (JSPME) signed the agreement with Mr. Ghanem Aziz, director general of the Iraqi company for food supplies.

The signing of the agreement followed talks held in Baghdad over the past few days.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, did not specify the number of eggs to be sold to Iraq in this period, but Mr. Irtimeh had earlier noted that he was hoping to sell 60 million eggs to Iraq through the deal.

WHO conference studies ways to combat malaria

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday called for international cooperation for stemming the danger of malaria through primary health care and preventive measures to fend off the infectious disease.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh made the call in a speech opening a regional symposium on combating malaria organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), in cooperation with the Health Ministry.

He said that to stem malaria a study should be made of the pesticides used in fighting the disease and techniques employed in combating malaria should be promoted.

The cost of pesticides should be reduced to enable most of the countries of the developing world to purchase sufficient quantities for use in combatting the disease, Dr. Hamzeh noted.

He said that Jordan has been able to control the disease and not a single case appeared in the Kingdom for many years.

The WHO representative in Jordan and Syria delivered a speech in which he outlined WHO's programmes for eradicating malaria in Middle East and North Africa since the 1960s.

During the five-day meeting at the Amman Plaza Hotel delegates from eight nations will discuss research being done in fighting malaria and precautionary measures against the disease. Apart from Jordan, the symposium is being attended by specialists from Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Somalia.

Military court sentences 2 men

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Abdullah Hussein Ali Mahmoud to five years imprisonment and fined him JD 2,000 for trading in hashish. The military court also sentenced Ali Abdullah Salameh Al Jawwab to six month imprisonment for embezzling public funds. The general military governor endorsed the sentences.

Iranians attack supertankers

(Continued from page 1)

"Should America resort to this dangerous gamble and should there be an outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf, we shall certainly engage in confrontation and we shall certainly win."

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has pledged to maintain the free flow of shipping through the Gulf.

To reinforce this vow, Pentagon officials said the U.S. battleship Missouri — on which Japan signed its World War II surrender in 1945 — would patrol off Iran from August.

They said the Missouri and its escorts would head for the northern Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, outside the Strait of Hormuz between Oman and Iran at the entrance to the Gulf.

Washington has said Iran is preparing launch sites near the Strait for Chinese-built anti-ship missiles.

Shipping sources say there are seven U.S. warships in the Gulf,

as well as a carrier-led force in the Arabian Sea, backed by some British, French and Soviet naval vessels.

The Iranians say they have reinforced their Revolutionary Guards forces along the Iranian side of Gulf and will carry out suicide attacks against U.S. ships if the Americans take any military action.

Shipping executives say the Revolutionary Guards, who are believed to have carried out recent ship attacks in speedboats armed with rocket launchers and machine guns, have also mined the approaches to the Al Ahmadi port of Kuwait.

An 18-man U.S. navy team, including bomb disposal experts, is sweeping the channel using Kuwaiti helicopters and American sonar equipment to determine the extent of the mining hazard.

If needed, they will call on U.S.-built Saudi Arabian minesweepers to clear the shipping lanes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King, Queen to open photo show

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will open a photo exhibition by Jordanian artist Zohrab Markarian, His Majesty's special photographer, on July 6th at the Royal Cultural Centre. On display at the exhibition, entitled "Panoramas of Jordan," will be some 60 photos depicting the various aspects of historical and cultural life in Jordan. Mr. Markarian said that the exhibition's main goal is to highlight the beauty and splendour of historical and archaeological sites as well as geographical features of Jordan. He added that these photos will go on display at exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe to highlight Jordan's tourist attractions and natural beauty.

Regent confers with chief of staff

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, the Regent, Saturday paid a visit to the Armed Forces general headquarters where he was received by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb. Prince Abdullah conferred with Lt-Gen. Abu Taleb for some time.

Royal Decree approves ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued approving the appointment of Dr. Albert Butros as ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. Dr. Butros had earlier held the post of Royal Scientific Society (RSS) president.

Cabinet approves Kuwaiti fund loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved a \$9 million loan agreement between Jordan and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to finance the second stage of the Aqaba thermal power station.

USAID-sponsored agricultural panel opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A training symposium for the directors of agricultural projects at the Ministry of Agriculture began here Saturday in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The ministry under secretary, Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, who opened the symposium, delivered a speech in which he said that the ministry's main goal was to increase agricultural production and that the ministry has directed agricultural investments towards this goal. Experts from the ministry and the USAID are giving lectures during the two-week symposium on the management of agricultural projects and agricultural extension programmes.

RADO WATCHES EXHIBITION

displays the latest designs of Rado Watches for 1987

The Amman Plaza on Thursday June 25 evening witnessed the opening of an exhibition of Rado Watches. The Swiss Ambassador in Amman and Mr. Khaleel Murad, deputy governor of Amman, cut the tape thus declaring the exhibition formally open. The opening ceremony was attended by a large audience of invited guests and Rado Watches enthusiasts. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Kaeser paid tribute to the Mar'i Brothers Establishment for providing the best available service to its customers in terms of sales and maintenance service and also in opening new branches for the sake of promoting the sale of Rado Watches.

Rado has maintained relations with the Mar'i Establishment for more than 25 years and despite the difficult economic circumstances Jordan is passing through, this establishment has been investing a large capital in the business and continuing to modernise and refurbish its exhibition halls and showrooms and also introducing a maintenance service.

Clearly the Mar'i Brothers Establishment have a great deal of confidence in the good quality of their displayed products which have a high rate selling in the Jordanian market.

Rado's director of sales in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, Mr. Richard Wolf spoke to the Jordan Times explaining that the Jordanian market is considered a remarkable market for Rado despite its small size because many Jordanians living in the Gulf Arab states are Rado customers and they expect an ex-

cellent service from the Rado agents in Amman once they return home. He said that the Rado firm has sent a number of employees from Mar'i Establishment on training course to Switzerland. These employees have been trained in maintenance, sales and display skills so as to provide the best possible service to Rado's customers in Jordan.

For this reason and through joint efforts between the Rado firm and the Mar'i Establishment, Rado Watches are bound to acquire a better and more important position in the local market in the coming few years. Rado customers can and will reap the benefit of their purchase and can always rely on the excellent Rado maintenance service. At the end of the opening ceremony both Mr. Awni Mar'i and Mr. Talat Mar'i paid tribute to the Rado firm and also outlined the excellent service offered to the Rado customers in Jordan.

Rado owns two plants for manufacturing watches in Switzerland and has branches in West Germany, the United States. The firm owns a marketing centre in Hong Kong. Rado agents are found in more than 100 countries around the world. In Switzerland itself, Rado tops the sales list and acquires 20 per cent of the Swiss watches market. In 1981 Rado trade mark was introduced as a registered trade mark in West German markets where nearly 250 merchants sell Rado products. In the United States Rado has been able to win universal fame in New York and Los Angeles over the past three years thanks to a com-

Mar'i Brothers Establishment

(25 years of unique service)



Mr. Peter Kaeser chats with men of the press

mercial campaign launched in a country which was ignorant of the Rado trade mark before.

Economic observers believe that the introduction of Rado trade mark in the United States as one of the most astounding successes ever achieved by the Rado firm throughout its history. Rado's Hong Kong branch is in charge of operations in the Far East. This branch is in charge of agents in that region and supervises the work of independent dealers in South East Asia like Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

In Japan, Rado have become the most famous Swiss watch, and the Rado trade mark is found at more than 1,000 stores and known to four out of every five Japanese.

In India and Pakistan, Rado is quite famous due largely to Indian and Pakistani workers operating in the Middle East who purchase Rado Watches there before their return to their home country carrying their valuable possessions thus contributing to the Rado fame.

The audience at the inauguration of the Rado exhibition inspected an array of Rado golden watches adorned with diamonds of exquisite workmanship. The guests expressed admiration for the set and the beautiful workmanship and fine art.



Mr. Peter Kaeser outlines the qualities of Rado Watches to the guests.

Mr. Talat Mar'i delivers a speech welcoming the guests

Mr. Awni Mar'i with representatives of Rado Company and journalists

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Takes two to tango

AMERICAN and Soviet experts on the Middle East and West Asia are meeting in Geneva next week to exchange views on problems besetting this part of the world. In normal circumstances, it would have been an important encounter for the peoples of the area to look forward with hope to the superpowers moving towards tackling some of the world's thorniest issues. But, the circumstances are never normal when it comes to the Middle East and the superpowers.

Washington has been trying to pour cold water on Arab hopes of a superpower accord on the proposal for an international conference by contending that there was no "constructive" Soviet behaviour to warrant Kremlin involvement in Middle East peace efforts. And, if that was not enough, Washington has also advised Israel to remain firm on its demands from Moscow before agreeing to drop its objections to a Soviet role in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

So what is there for us in the Arab World to hope for in the July 6-7 meeting in Geneva between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department? Practically nothing, other than an agreement that there exists a "crisis" in the Middle East and that the Gulf war should be brought to an end. So, perhaps we would be wiser to concentrate on what the superpowers might do in the Iran-Iraq situation. Here, again, the best that could come out of the Geneva meeting is a Washington-Moscow agreement to advance the pending U.N. Security Council resolution on the Gulf war. But such an accord has already been reached in the corridors of the U.N. in New York, and it is clear that it is neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union that is blocking the inclusion of a mandatory arms embargo on the two belligerents. So that leaves us with Afghanistan. Moscow has already sent strong signals that it is willing to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and seek a political solution to the problem, provided the U.S. and its allies call off their support for the anti-government rebels there. Even on this Washington has shown no willingness to proceed along these lines and there appears to be little chance of any change of mind before the Geneva meeting.

Of course, we cannot overlook what the Soviets will have to say over the Middle East in the Geneva meeting. They can tell the Americans they are genuinely interested in assuming an active role in efforts for peace in the region and are willing to work towards it through their allies and friends in the region. But will that get them anywhere in the face of U.S. contentions that Soviet support for the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate rights is not "creative behaviour"?

Just how the U.S. administration defines this "creative behaviour," we do not know. But assuming that it is a Soviet neutral stand in the Arab-Israeli conflict that Washington is after, what can be said about the party that is definitely not neutral on the Palestinian problem, namely the U.S.? Should the Soviets not tell the Americans that it takes two to tango, and that the U.S. should look closer to home for any remaining credibility on the Middle East?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King enlists Turkey's support

KING Hussein has emphasised the Jordanian-Turkish role in promoting the cause of peace in the Middle East region and establishing right and justice for its peoples. The King made his statements in Turkey where he is paying an official visit for talks with its leaders on consolidating efforts for resolving the Middle East problem and also for ending the Iran-Iraq conflict. In his address at an official banquet in Ankara King Hussein explained the Jordanian position vis-a-vis both issues and reiterated Jordan's call for the establishment of a just and durable peace that should come with the help of the international community and under United Nations auspices. This peace, the King stressed, should ensure the return of the rights and the lands of the Palestinian people and a total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. On the Gulf war the King said that Iraq has responded favourably to all peace bids and expressed hope that Turkey would exert its efforts to persuade Iran to accept the call of reason and the call of peace.

Al Dustour: Bolstering Jordanian-Turkish relations

KING Hussein has embarked on an official visit to Turkey for talks with President Kenan Evren aimed at strengthening Jordanian-Turkish relations and for consultations on the best means of ending tension and conflicts in the Middle East region. This visit is part of Jordan's relentless diplomatic efforts in Europe to mobilise support and enlist help from various nations for convening an international Middle East peace conference which is being considered by the majority of nations as the only option and practical means for achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East region. Turkey, which has been supporting the idea of this conference, can play an important role in this respect in view of its wide ranging interest and strong historic links with the Arab World. This Islamic nation which is also bound firmly with Europe, can actually play an important role in international affairs in general and the Middle East area in particular.

Sawt Al Shaab: Promoting bilateral relations

KING Hussein's visit to Turkey and his talks with President Kenan Evren together embody the strong historic and economic ties between Jordan and Turkey and the two countries' plans to promote them in all fields. Turkey and Jordan hold almost identical views on a host of important issues like the Middle East conflict and the Gulf war. For this reason King Hussein stressed in his address on Friday the important role which Turkey can play as a friendly nation in consolidating current efforts designed to find a just and equitable solution for the problem of the Palestinian people and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict that would ensure total Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands occupied since 1967. This, the King said, can be done only through an international conference and under U.N. auspices. King Hussein was also careful to refer to the Gulf conflict, and he said that Turkey no doubt shares with Jordan its concern over the continuation of the war between two Islamic neighbours, and the constant sapping of their resources and power.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Time for prudent financial policy

THE economic and financial policies and practices in Jordan were never taken for granted or agreed upon by consensus. There were always varying schools of thought and points of view within the official establishment and outside it. Such views vary, not only in accordance with theoretical or ideological backgrounds, but also in response to practical interests of those concerned.

Hence, the arguments over economic policy were always and will continue to be an ongoing process.

Points of view polarised these days on whether the government should continue to expand, increase public expenditure for various purposes and sacrifice parts of its revenues as a price for incentives to encourage financial, real estate and export activities and revitalise the economy; or, that it is high time to admit that such policy did not work and should be replaced by more conservative and prudent financial policy, which puts safety and security first.

Newspapers these days are no more full of drastic economic news, developments and decisions. This however does not mean that the government has finalised its economic programmes. It implies that the whole economic policy and direction are undergoing a full scale revision and evaluation in the light of actual

results.

When we did have some economic news recently, they fell under one of two categories: Those that entailed new or more spending, or those that resulted in lower revenues due to exemptions, reliefs, or instalment at the expense of the Treasury. The natural result for both categories of development is invariably the growth of deficit beyond the figures anticipated in the budget. Most new or expanded expenditures have no sufficient allocations in the budget, or no allocations at all, and most revenues which were subjected to exemptions, reductions or rescheduling were over-stated on the revenue side of the budget. So far in the year, the revenue of customs duties, income tax, and real estate fees on transactions were substantially lower than the previous year and much lower than the estimations of the budget, while most recurring expenses were in excess of estimates, or covered by advances to be accounted for in a budget supplement at a later date.

Of course no one is trying purposely to cause more financial deficit, but the government bodies are constantly under pressure to provide new services, or more services, or to forego some rights towards the tax payers in view of their difficult circumstances, and

without due care to the circumstances of the Treasury itself. Since public funds are in fact tax payers' money, it is the duty of the people to resist the generosity at the expense of the Treasury. The big financial deficit is more risky than the problems and difficulties which we try to solve by throwing money on them. In other words, the solutions causing more financial deficit are no solutions at all. They are merely a technique to substitute a problem by a bigger and more dangerous one.

Disagreement over economic policy is a welcome and healthy sign. We firmly stand behind more prudent, careful and secure approach in handling our public finances. We definitely do not want to swap problems and difficulties facing certain individuals or companies or sectors with difficulties and threats to our very security and future.

Economic and financial stability, which Jordan enjoyed, was always based on three points: Low external indebtedness, adequate foreign exchange reserves, and efficient management. Jordanians should not accept any policy that might sacrifice any of these points or, in fact, all of them.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Grosz tipped to replace Kadar after Hungary leadership shakeup

BUDAPEST (R) — Karoly Grosz, a strong proponent of economic reform named as prime minister on June 25 in Hungary's leadership shakeup, is tipped to succeed veteran Communist Party leader Janos Kadar.

Grosz, 56, will take over his new job after three years as Communist Party chief in Budapest. A politburo member with impeccable working class credentials, he is seen by both Hungarian and Western observers as a strong candidate to replace Kadar.

His post will boost both his own position and the role of the government, which the party says it wants expanded.

"Grosz is a man who believes in efficiency," one Western diplomat says. "He will certainly try to run the economy."

Grosz joined the party in 1945 and left printing — a trade once followed by Kadar — to work as a journalist. He became a Central Committee (CC) member in 1980, joining the politburo in 1985.

Speeches suggest Grosz is among the most radical proponents of economic reform. He defends wage differentials and the profit motive.

But Western diplomats report signs that he is less liberal in the social sphere and very pro-Moscow.

Grosz acknowledged on radio last year having sympathised with many rebel demands during the 1956 Hungarian uprising put down by Kadar and the Soviet Union as a "counter-revolution."

Another possible candidate to replace Kadar is Janos Berecz, 56, whose nomination to the politburo reinforces his position within the party. He acted as Communist Party propaganda chief since 1985. His elevation makes him, according to a senior party source, "the Hungarian Ligachev." (Yegor Ligachev is regarded as number two in the Kremlin.)

Berecz had a high public profile last year as author and presenter of a television history of the 1956 anti-Communist uprising, officially tagged a "counter-revolution" by the party.

Berecz was a youth activist in the party, and was a party secretary in the foreign ministry from 1966 to 1972. From 1974 to 1982 he headed the CC's foreign affairs department, and from 1982 to 1985 he was editor of the party daily Nepszabadsag (People's Freedom).

Following are brief portraits of other major figures in the leadership shake-up announced June 25.

Pal Losonczi, 67, retires as president (president of the presidential council) after 20 years. He also leaves the politburo, but will remain as a member of the presidential council.

A former agricultural labourer, Losonczi joined the Communist Party in 1945 and was prominent in the cooperative movement. He became a full member of the CC in 1957 and was agriculture minister from 1960 until his appointment to the presidency in 1967.

Losonczi has suffered from ill health in recent years.

Karoly Nemeth, 64, takes over as head of state from Losonczi. He leaves the post of Communist Party deputy general secretary, a position created for him in March 1985 to relieve the burden on Kadar, 75.

Nemeth left a job in the meat industry to become a full-time party worker in 1946, and both Western diplomats and Hungarian sources regard him as a somewhat colourless party bureaucrat. One diplomat described him before the shakeup as "the Chernenko of Hungary," alluding to the late Konstantin Chernenko who served briefly as Kremlin chief until his death in 1985.

A member of the politburo, Nemeth was a CC secretary from

1974 to 1985. He headed the CC's economic policy committee from 1974 to 1978 and was put in charge of party building and the CC youth committee in 1978.

Gyorgy Lazar, 62, leaves as prime minister after 12 years to take Nemeth's former job of Communist Party deputy general secretary. Lazar's career was moulded by many years in the civil service, where he specialised in economic planning.

Lazar joined the party in 1945 and entered the National Planning Office (NPO) on its establishment in 1948.

After being minister of labour from 1970 to 1973, he served from 1973 to 1975 as deputy prime minister. He has been a CC member since 1970 and in the politburo since 1975.

Official sources say his new post is effectively a demotion, as the post of deputy general secretary is more important in nominal than real terms.

Judit Csehak, 46, relinquishes the post of deputy prime minister she has held since December 1984 to become the only woman in the politburo.

A medical doctor who worked as a general practitioner, Csehak joined the Communist Party in 1967 and became a trade union activist in 1975.

She has been chairman of the state committee for youth since 1985, the year she became a member of the CC.

Officials say she mixes charm with efficiency, and that she gained the respect of government officials when bargaining as a trade unionist.

Ferenc Havasi, 58, leaves the post of CC secretary in charge of economic policy which he has filled since 1978. A former deputy prime minister from 1975 to 1978, he takes over from Grosz the most important local party post as general secretary of the Budapest area.

Western observers say Havasi, a sober and scholarly man, was exhausted by his work on the economy.

Miklos Nemeth, 39, takes over from Havasi the top party economic job, entering the CC and becoming secretary in charge of economic policy in one leap. Nemeth took over the economic department under Havasi's direction only in January. Hungarian sources describe him as very able and efficient.

New Central American peace plan in trouble

By Alister Doyle
Reuter

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — A new Central American peace plan designed to resolve hostilities and stressing the region's independence from the United States has run into trouble, diplomats said.

The new initiative aims for a quick accord to end the region's conflicts but so far the three meetings called to discuss it — a presidential summit and two foreign ministers' meetings — have either been postponed or called off.

While diplomats say they do not dismiss the plan, a 10-point document presented by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias in February, several described it privately as "pie-in-the-sky diplomacy."

The countries in the region have all formally welcomed the Arias plan, the first worked out by a Central American nation, but most have serious doubts over its feasibility and over how it would enforce an enduring peace, diplomats said.

Lack of good will among the Central American nations, personality clashes among their leaders and the barely veiled opposition of the United States are also stacked against Arias' chances of success, they added.

The Arias plan is in serious trouble even before it has got going," one diplomat said.

The plan calls for ceasefires in the region's three guerrilla wars, democratic elections, an end to foreign support for insurgents such as the U.S.-backed right-wing Nicaraguan rebels and withdrawal of foreign advisers from the region.

Although the plan does not mention any country by name, analysts said a main thrust is to encourage political pluralism in Nicaragua by eliminating the military threat to Managua.

On June 24, Honduras called off a two-day foreign ministers' meeting, due to have started discussing the plan on June 25 at a Caribbean resort in north Honduras. It blamed a lack of will by some Central American nations to discuss the plan.

After the talks were put off, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced in Panama City he had dropped his previous insistence that a summit, originally set for June 25 in Guatemala, should go ahead.

With Nicaragua's decision, the Central American nations have all agreed to put off the summit until August 6-7.

While other peace initiatives for Central America have weathered delays, the Arias plan aims for a quick agreement, partly due to uncertainty over future U.S. policy for the region, diplomats said.

The U.S. allies — El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala — want to prove their independence from Washington before they face a possible sharp change in U.S. policy when President Reagan's term ends.

President Reagan made it clear to Arias in a meeting last week that he intended to go ahead and seek \$105 million from Congress to continue funding the contra rebels this year, a Costa Rican diplomat said.

For Nicaragua, an early accord

on the Arias plan is attractive as it would make it hard for Reagan to secure cash for the contras if Central America is seen to be moving towards peace.

Not all the Central American nations would be happy if aid to the contras was simply cut off, however. Honduras, for instance, fearing a flood of mercenaries from across the border, has urged the Arias plan be amended to force Nicaragua to negotiate with rebels.

Ortega reiterated on June 24 in Panama City that he would only speak to Reagan, whom he calls the head of the contras.

Currently the Arias plan says that the five presidents of the region will declare a ceasefire once the agreement is signed and hold talks with unarmed opposition groups. It leaves open the question of whether the guerrillas will agree, diplomats said.

They said the problem could be especially acute for El Salvador's President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who is under political pressure from the right and lacks a firm mandate to order the military to stop fighting the leftist guerrillas.

Granny power takes to the streets in West Germany

By John Kampfer
Reuter

GEILENKIRCHEN, West Germany — Sixty pensioners armed with walking sticks, placards and loudhailers descend on a military base to demand the scrapping of nuclear missiles from West Germany.

The Grey Panthers have arrived.

Wherever there is a disarmament rally, this group of radical old people is always present.

Trude Unruh, the group's founder and leader, says her generation after living through Nazism and World War II, has a special role to play in urging people to shun violence.

"We oldies are all guilty of Hitler. But look now. Idiots are still in power and are playing out that power," she told Reuters in an interview.

Unruh, 62, elected to parliament in January's general election, set up the group in 1975 to campaign for disarmament and to give old people a peaceful focus for their grievances.

She lobbies vociferously in parliament for higher pensions and greater rights for those with disabilities.

"This country is one of the world's richest industrialised nations. So why can't we have a share of it?" she says.

"We have one of the most comprehensive social security systems, yet so many of us fall through the net, while some people are too rich. They don't need any more money."

The Panthers, officially known as the Senior Citizens' Protection Association, were given their name by the press. And it has stuck.

Based in Unruh's home town of Wuppertal, they now boast 200 groups in West Germany and 20,000 members. Most of them are women and most are over 60.

"There are millions of old people here below the poverty line. We've now demonstrated thousands of times to make that poverty visible," she says.

Under Unruh's leadership, the Panthers have forged informal links with other disarmament groups, most notably the Greens.

In Geilenkirchen they were given a rapturous welcome from a busload of Greens members of parliament as they staged a joint sit-in outside a base housing the Pershing 1-A missiles which Chancellor Helmut Kohl says the country must keep.

Many of the Panthers were weak on their knees, one was blind, but they were all in good voice, singing, applauding speeches and waving banners.

However, the mood changed when their bus, which was follow-

ing the Greens, got lost and missed a second demonstration outside a nearby NATO base.

The Panthers have accompanied their younger but more illustrious partners at anti-nuclear rallies for years.

But Unruh, despite entering parliament on the list of Greens members of parliament, stands as an independent.

The Greens, a broad movement encompassing ecologists, anti-nuclear protesters and other leftists, have taken up causes which would otherwise have been ignored since they first gained seats in parliament in 1983.

They have also brought a certain irreverence to the previously staid proceedings.

But Unruh is critical of the tactics employed by the radical wing of the party, including disrupting speeches and calling on people to break the law.

"We're all agreed on the aims, but we can't always sit on the sidelines. We have to be prepared to take responsibility for our actions and to accept a role in government if necessary," she says.

A well-groomed bespectacled mother of two, she uses expletives frequently when she talks about nuclear missiles.

West Germany, she believes, is an occupied country. She wants all foreign troops kicked out and

for the Bonn government to follow a neutral, pacifist line.

There are more than 400,000 foreign troops in West Germany, serving as NATO's front-line. Americans make up well over half (around 250,000), there are about 60,000 Britons on the Rhine, 50,000 French serving on the Franco-German border and a small number of Canadians, Belgians and Dutch.

"In the army they train you to shoot the man you had breakfast with. Do you think all those soldiers in World War II wanted to die and make heroes of themselves? They were all crying and screaming."

Taking parliament on the road is one of her plans. "We debate, but how many people know what we're talking about. We have to go to the people."

Unruh likens several right-wing politicians, some of her generation, to fascists and says traces of Nazism are alive in parliament.

"Look at the AIDS question. It's typical. The instinctive reaction is repressive measures and border checks," she says.

Many of the signs are common in other countries, she adds. "We've all developed systems in which brutality is carried out by the same type of men — and women for their part. The world is so proud and look what damage we do to each other."

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9 - 11	London City Ballet	London City Ballet	ESIPA U.S.A. Ala'din & Magic Lamp	ESIPA U.S.A. Ala'din & Magic Lamp				
9.30 - 11					Local Music Production Mideel Al-Shabbad Abu-Alfudul		Tunis Folklore Group	Fuhais Sing Group
Sound & Light 8 - 9	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe
9.30-10.30	Children's Play Amro Amin	Children's Play Amro Amin	Children's Play Amro Amin	Children's Play Amro Amin	Children's Play Amro Amin	Children's Play Amro Amin	Children's Play Amro Amin	Children's Play Amro Amin
Artemis Steps 8 - 10	U.S. Young Str. & Jordan N.M.C. Students	U.S. Young Str. & Jordan N.M.C. Students	Jordan Mus. Ass. Children Orchestra	Local Groups for music & Songs	Poets & Poetry	Poets & Poetry	Poets & Poetry	Poets & Poetry
Forum 6 - 7	Opening	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	W.G. Band & Folk. Group	W.G. Band & Folk. Group	W.G. Band & Folk. Group
7.30-8.30			Jordanian Folk Groups	Jordanian Folk Groups				Jordanian Folk Groups
9 - 11	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe
	Thur. 16/7	Frid. 17/7	Sat. 18/7	Sund. 19/7	Mon. 20/7	Tue. 21/7	Wed. 22/7	Thur. 23/7
South Th. 7.30-8.30	Iraqi National Folk Group	Spain Modern Flamenco group			Jordan Mus. Ass. Singing group	Radio Jord. Music & Songs		
9 - 11			Romeo Lahoud Lebanese Nights	Romeo Lahoud Lebanese Nights			Iman Darwish Sing. group Egypt	Iman Darwish Sing. group Egypt
9.30-11	Spain Modern Flamenco group	Iraqi National Folklore group			Czechoslov. Folklore Group	Czechoslov. Folklore Group		
Sound & light 8 - 9	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe
9.30-10.30	Children's Play Wisdom tree	Children's Play Wisdom tree	Children's Play Wisdom tree	Children's Play Wisdom tree	Children's Play Wisdom tree	Children's Play Wisdom tree	Children's Play Wisdom tree	Children's Play Wisdom tree
Artemis Steps 8 - 10	Poets & poetry	Poets & poetry	Poets & poetry	Poets & poetry	Poets & poetry	Poets & poetry	Poets & poetry	Poets & poetry
Forum 6 - 7	Jordan Armed Forces band	Local Folk groups	Jordan Armed Forces band	Jordan Armed Forces band	Local Folk groups	Jordan Armed Forces band	Local Folk groups	Jordan Armed Forces band
7.30-8.30	Tunisian Inst. music	Local music & Songs groups	Tunisian Inst. music	Local music & Songs groups		Local music & Songs groups	Local music & Songs groups	Local folk. groups
9 - 11	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe	China Acrobatic Troupe
	Frid. 24/7	Sat. 25/7	Sund. 26/7	Mon. 27/7	Tues. 28/7	Wed. 29/7	Thur. 30/7	Frid. 31/7
South Theatre 7.30-8.30			Syrian Sing group ZANOBIYA	Syrian Sing. group ZANOBIYA				
9 - 11	CARACELLA Sing. group ECHOS	CARACELLA Sing group ECHOS			Duraid Lahham SHAQAIK AL-NU'MAN	Duraid Lahham SHAQAIK AL-NU'MAN	Duraid Lahham SHAQAIK AL-NU'MAN	Duraid Lahham SHAQAIK AL-NU'MAN
9.30 - 11			The Mosco State Ballet THEATRE	The Mosco State Bal. THEATRE				
Sound & light 8 - 9	Polish Puppet theatre	Children's Play Butter fly Dancing	Children's Play Butter fly dancing	Children's Play Butter fly dancing	Children's Play Butter fly dancing	Children's Play Butter fly dancing	Children's Play Butter fly dancing	Children's Play Butter fly dancing
9.30-10.30	Children's Play Wisdom tree	Children's Play Butter fly	Royal Jordan folk. group	Local group music & Songs	R. Jordanian folk. group	Local gr. folk. group	R. Jordanian folk. group	Local group music & Songs
Artemis steps 8 0 10	Poets & Poetry	International Youth Musical Performance 8-9.30 Austria Tunis England Jordan	International Y. Musical Performance 8-9.30 U.S.A. Egypt Germany Bahrain	Italian Puppet Show	Italian Puppet Show	Italian Puppet Show	Italian Puppet Show	Italian Puppet Show
Forum 6 - 7	Local Folk groups	Jordan Arm. forces band	Local folk groups	Jordan Arm. forces band	Jordan Arm. forces band	Jordan Arm. forces band	Jordan Arm. forces band	Jordan Arm. forces band
7.30-8.30	Local mus. groups	Local folk. groups		Local folk. groups	Local folk. groups	Local folk. groups	Local folk. groups	Local folk. groups
9 - 11	China Acrobatic troupe	China Acrobatic troupe	China Acrobatic troupe	China Acrobatic troupe	China Acrobatic troupe	China Acrobatic troupe	China Acrobatic troupe	China Acrobatic troupe



Over 94 per cent of the rural population of Jordan now enjoy electrical power supply (JEA photo)

Jordan's energy consumption drops

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The annual growth in demand for electricity in Jordan remained around 10 per cent in 1986 as against an average of 18 per cent during the period 1980-1985, according to the 1986 annual report of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

The report said that the growth in demand was registered at 10.1 per cent, slightly above the figure of 9.2 per cent in 1985, but it underlined the success of the government's efforts to bring down the rate through its energy conservation policy.

The report said the demand for total energy in the Kingdom was 2,871 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MTOE) in the year 1986 while it was 2,819 MTOE in 1985, thereby representing an annual growth of 1.8 per cent compared to 2.1 per cent in 1985. The average per capita consumption of energy was 1,024 kilograms of oil equivalent (KGOE) in 1986 compared to 1,049 KGOE in 1985.

The report attributed this decline to the slowdown in the national economy as well as the national energy conservation policy.

According to the report, the decrease in the international prices of oil was reflected in the sharp reduction of more than 50 per cent in the total cost of imported energy. The oil imports bill constituted about 5.7 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP) and 47 per cent of the national exports compared to 12.3 per cent and 82 per cent respectively for 1985. It meant that the total cost of energy imported in the year 1986 amounted to JD 111.32 million against JD 228 million in 1985.

A split up of the total consumption of energy in 1986 showed that the transport sector was the biggest consumer accounting for about 39 per cent, while the power sector consumed 28.3 per cent, industry 12.9 per cent, domestic 11 per cent and other sectors 8.8 per cent.

The total energy production, including JEA exports to Syria, grew by 18.4 per cent to 2,995 gigawatt hour (GWH) > 1,000 megawatt hour (MW). Various JEA generating facilities contributed 2,612 GWH (88.4 per cent) of the total production, registering an increase of 24.3 per cent over the figure for 1985, while production by the various autonomous industries in the Kingdom declined by about 12 per cent.

The demand for electricity produced by JEA for local consumption grew by 14.4 per cent in 1986

compared with about nine per cent in 1985, the report said.

The industrial sector remained to be the largest consumer of electricity produced, accounting for about 39 per cent of the total production, while the domestic sector accounted for 30.3 per cent and the commercial sector with 11.7 per cent.

Power used for water pumping accounted for 14 per cent and other sectors, including municipalities and street lighting, accounted for five per cent.

Other figures given in the report showed that the peak load in the national system was 458 MW in September 1986 registering an increase of 15.1 per cent over the figure of 398 MW in 1985.

During the time of system peak, 70 MW was provided to Syria and thus the annual maximum load including the Syrian load was 528 MW. During the off-peak periods, Syria was provided with 90 MW and the total power supplied to Syria in 1986 was 214 GWH compared with 20.5 GWH in 1985.

The number of total power consumers rose to 430,000 in Jordan in the year 1986 and this figure represents about 95 per cent of the population, the report said. The figure was 401,000 in 1985, it added.

The average outage per consumer was 16 hours in 1986 compared with 11 hours in 1985, the report said, but added that more than 50 per cent of it was preplanned to facilitate repair and maintenance work. Outages caused by weather accounted for 15.9 per cent and human error was behind 14.3 per cent, while unspecified reasons accounted for 16.6 per cent.

The report noted that if the planned outage per consumer was 7.5 hours in 1986 and that this figure was relatively high when compared to those in developed countries. The level of outage in Europe is between one and four hours per consumer.

The report promised that the situation would be rectified soon in Jordan with the collective efforts of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the JEA, and the two main distributing companies.

Rural electrification

On rural electrification, the report said 83 villages, inhabited by about 31,000 people, were electrified in 1986 under programmes drawn up by the JEA and the two distribution companies — the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) and the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO). With the projects completed in

1986, the total number of electrified villages rose to 656 with a total population of 1,055,000 or 93.8 per cent of the total rural population of the Kingdom.

The total installed system capacity of Jordan was 979 MW at the end of 1986. The JEA share was \$64.5 million. The total capacity of the interconnected system was 875 MW.

The system includes the main generating stations and a 400 KV transmission network. It also includes a 230 KV tie line for providing power to Syria, and the entire network serves about 96 per cent of the Kingdom's total population, the report said.

JEA total production for local consumption and export reached 2,612 GWH in 1986 compared to 2,102 GWH in 1985 — an increase of 24.3 per cent. Increased supplies to Syria accounted for this high increase, according to the report.

Of the total production, the Hussein Thermal Power Station (HTPS) in Zarqa accounted for 64.87 per cent, followed by Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS) (18.19 per cent), Marka (2.6 per cent), Amman South gas turbines (0.33 per cent), Karak and Tafleh (0.47 per cent), Ma'an and surrounding villages (0.02 per cent) and diesel generators in Aqaba (1.9 per cent). Of the total of 2,995 GWH of generated power, including that of the various industries, the IDECO and various municipalities, steam power accounted for 93.3 per cent, diesel power 6.2 per cent and gas power 0.4 per cent.

A hydroelectric project at the King Talal Dam producing 3 GWH accounted for the remainder (0.1 per cent). According to the report, a JEA streetlighting project for Amman suburbs was expected to be completed by mid-1987. The project, comprising a total of 95 kilometres of roads around the capital, has already been completed and work on some extensions to the already covered road sections is continuing, according to a spokesman for the JEA.

The total number of JEA employees rose by 9.6 per cent to 1,731 in 1986, the report said. The total number of employees in the electricity sector was 4,688 at the end of 1986.

The level of productivity per JEA employee rose to 1,509 MWH in 1986 reflecting an increase of 13.5 per cent over 1985, according to the report.

JEA is continuing work on a national training centre for technical personnel. The centre, located in Zarqa, is expected to be operational by the end of this year.

Reduced tariffs

The JEA report noted that the authority announced a reduced tariff for consumers in mid-1986, offering a reduction of about 20 per cent for the domestic sector, while the reduction was 17 per cent for industrial consumers. Reduced charges have also been offered to hotels, in a bid to boost tourism, the report said.

JEA also offered to the agriculture sector reduced charges for power used for purposes of irrigation and drinking water projects.

Expenditures

On capital expenditures the JEA report said the authority spent about JD 42 million in capital projects in 1986 compared to JD 59 million in 1985. Consequently, total value of JEA assets rose to JD 268 million from JD 165 million in 1985, representing an increase of 62.4 per cent.

In a section devoted to electrical power system developed in Jordan, the JEA report noted that the authority completed and commissioned the first stage of the ATPS by the end of 1986. This facility, which comprises of two steam units of 130 MW each, has been linked to the national grid.

JEA is in the process of implementing the second phase of the ATPS. Tenders have already been issued for the supply, installation and commissioning of two 130 MW steam units included in this phase, and work on the project is expected to start by the end of 1987, the report said.

A 400 KV double circuit transmission line linking the ATPS and the JEA's Amman South sub-station was completed in mid-1986 at a rated voltage of 132 KV which will be raised to 400 KV when the second stage of ATPS is completed.

Another major project currently under implementation is a 400/132 KV substation for Amman South.

The completion of the first stage of a microwave communication network was another major JEA project in 1986. This project conveys information to a centralised computer system and provides facsimile and telephone links among various JEA facilities including the HTPS in Zarqa and ATPS. The JEA headquarters in Amman and the national control centre.

The next stage of this network will absorb six other locations and the wireless communications systems already in use by JEA personnel.

Bald brotherhood finds new recruits in Belgium

By Mark Trevelyan

SOIRON, Belgium — "I'd like you to wrinkle your forehead, please," says master of ceremonies Fernand Fyon.

"We'll measure the bald surface between the first wrinkle of the forehead and the first crease in the neck, and multiply that by the breadth from left to right," he adds.

Then he and 300 spectators watch closely as local hairdresser Suzy Neils examines the first contestant with a magnifying glass — to check for any signs of cheating — whips out her tape measure, and announces, to loud cheers, "24 centimetres by 15."

This is the 10th anniversary festival of the Bald Brotherhood of Soiron, and most of the population of the small Belgian town has turned out to watch the bizarre beauty contest which serves as an initiation to the brotherhood's ranks.

Fyon, its president, a 57-year-old builder with two decades of

baldness behind him, says the organisation is a social forum which aims to help bald people shed any awkwardness they may feel about their condition.

The brotherhood is one of three such organisations in Belgium, and sends delegates each October to the town of Cincy, where they lay flowers at the grave of former mayor Joseph Lambert, founder of the National Bald Brotherhood.

There are also close links with France, which staged its national conference for the bald earlier this month in Angers, and West Germany, whose equivalent is known as the Club der Fideles Glatzkopte (club of the jolly bald men).

International festivals for the bald take place every two years, Fyon said, the most recent being two years ago in Nancy, France.

"We're growing each year through the number of activities and festivities we organise," Fyon told Reuters on the third and final day of the Soiron celebra-

tions. "People have thrown away their wigs when they've come to us. We've helped a lot of people get rid of their complexes."

The relaxed atmosphere which the brotherhood offers can play a special role in helping people come to terms with the premature loss of hair which can result from serious accident or illness, Fyon says.

Resplendent in red and black ankle-length robes and flanked by seven other high priests of the brotherhood in similar garb, he steps forward at last to announce the competition results.

Even he, proud owner of a marble-smooth cranium, sounds a note of awe as he awards first place to a contestant with a "magnificent" 1,085 square centimetres of bald pate.

Then comes the initiation proper. A robed member of the brotherhood professes a symbolic white billiard ball on a red cushion, and Fyon intones: "Will you put your left hand on the

shining sphere and swear never to modify your coiffure?"

"We swear," they chorus as one man.

Fyon anoints the new members by pouring a small quantity of brandy from a ladle onto each man's head, rubbing it into the scalp with a handkerchief and letting them drink the rest.

Then everyone retires to the bar, to get down to the really serious business of the weekend.

"The Soiron Brotherhood meets on the first Tuesday of each month, whether there's some subject to discuss or not," bellows treasurer Jean Pirotte against a deafening background of accordion music.

"We don't talk about much, we drink," he adds.

Meanwhile Fyon, proudly surveying the tented of merry-makers, proclaims: "Baldies of all countries, come and join us at Soiron. We're everything we need to take away your complexes and make you proud to be bald."

Church of England questions whether Christians can be Freemasons

By Graham Heathcote

The Associated Press

LONDON — A Church of England inquiry group last week questioned whether Christians can be Freemasons and said home Christians had found Masonic rituals disturbing and "positively evil."

A report on a 16-month investigation by a seven-member panel of the Anglican state church stopped short of recommending that church members resign from Masonic lodges. But it said Christians who are Freemasons faced "clear difficulties."

Commander Michael Higham, grand secretary of English Freemasons, called the report "disappointing."

He issued a statement saying the church report amounted to an accusation of heresy. Such a charge against the movement, he said, "will come as a surprise to thousands of Christian Freemasons — Anglican and

non-conformists alike — who know that Freemasonry is good, and that it supports their religion without trespassing on its preserves."

The report followed similar recent moves against the international brotherhood by other British Protestant churches and the Roman Catholics. The Methodists recommended their members not join Masonic lodges.

There is growing hostility in the churches to Masonic practices, which include oath-swearing on the Bible, rituals and pledges of secrecy, conducted in Masonic temples by officials wearing regalia.

Gristly 300-year-old penalties, such as beheading and tearing out tongues for divulging Masonic secrets, were removed from initiation rituals in Britain last February after complaints that they deterred new entrants.

The 56-page report, "Freemasonry and Christianity: Are they

compatible?" said many of the 1.5 million active members of the church were practising Masons, some of whom had protested the 1985 decision of the church's policy-making general synod to hold an inquiry.

The panel said its five non-Mason members found a "number of very fundamental reasons to question the compatibility of Freemasons with Christianity."

"From the evidence we have received, it is clear that some Christians have found the impact of Masonic rituals disturbing and a few perceive them as positively evil," the report said. "The dramatic impact of the rituals have had a 'psychic' effect."

It found the most serious theological objection to Freemasonry was its use of the term "Jahbulon," the name of God given to some Masonic initiates and formed from Semitic, Hebrew and Egyptian names for God. The inquiry concluded the term

was "blasphemous" because the name of God in Christian theology "must not be taken in vain, nor can it be replaced by an amalgam of the names of the pagan deities."

The report said some Christians had quit Freemasonry "precisely because they perceive their membership of it as being in conflict with their Christian witness and belief."

There are more than 500,000 Freemasons in Britain, belonging to some 8,500 lodges, headed by grand master Duke of Kent, first cousin of Queen Elizabeth II.

There are millions of Masons in the world, pledged to help each other. Communist countries ban the movement.

Membership is by invitation, usually limited to professional men and women: Lawyers, civil servants, bank managers, police officers, rabbis and clergy, doctors, architects, accountants and military people.

Sir Harry Lewis wins Irish Derby after bomb scare delay

NEWBRIDGE, Ireland (R) — The Irish Derby, delayed 50 minutes by a bomb scare which forced police to evacuate thousands from the Curragh Grandstand, was won Saturday by British challenger Sir Harry Lewis, a determined stayer who clearly revelled in the soft going.

The big drama of the day came when police at Newbridge received an anonymous phone call warning of a bomb in the stands on Ireland's big horse racing day of the year, attended by 30,000 racegoers.

The police searched the stands and after almost an hour the racecourse commentator told the cheering crowd at the windswept course: "Nothing suspicious has been found."

Lord Hemphill, senior steward of the Irish Jockey Club, said: "It's lucky enough it all ended as

well as it did. The police wanted to avoid any form of stampede and panic and indeed they did."

The race, offering one of the poorest turnouts for a European classic this season, was almost an anti-climax with Sir Harry Lewis, ridden by Northern Ireland born jockey John Reid, beating the smallest Irish Derby field for 27 years.

Reid, jubilant after his 3/4 of a length win over fellow British challenger Nabeze, said: "He relaxed just fine. He was not worried by the long wait."

All eight jockeys took off their crash helmets and walked their mounts around at the start while the police combed the stands to check that the phone call was a bomb hoax.

Sir Harry Lewis, owned by New York hotelier Howard Kasel, had been fourth to Reference Point in the Epsom Derby and clearly was at ease in Saturday's going.

The 6-1 chance hit the front two furlongs out and never looked like being headed by the 10-1 shot Nabeze, ridden by another Northern Ireland born jockey Ray Cochrane.

Third, four lengths away, was the Vincent O'Brien trained Entitled (7-2) ridden by Cash Asmussen.

There was more drama when the Stewards held an inquiry into the closing stages when Nabeze

appeared to obstruct Entitled but after studying a video of the race they allowed the placings to remain unaltered.

It was a second classic victory in Ireland for trainer Barry Hills who won the Irish Oaks here in 1974 with Dildale.

The two big disappointments of the race were the Epsom Derby runner up Most Welcome, clearly ill at ease on the going, and the 13-8 favourite Sadjid, trained in France and owned by the Aga Khan. Most Welcome finished fifth with Sadjid further behind.

The Aga Khan's 1981 Epsom and Irish Derby winner Shergar was kidnapped from the stud adjoining the Curragh racecourse four years ago and the \$10 million champion thoroughbred has never been found.

Stage scrubbed after race car accident

STILLWATER GLEN, Wash. (R) — The fourth stage of the Olympus Motor Rally was scrubbed Friday night after an accident here involving a car driven by American television actor Richard Dean Anderson.

Eyewitnesses said the Toyota FX16 driven by Anderson, the star of the "McGyver" show which often features high-speed car chases, rolled over four times, went off the course and was damaged beyond repair.

Neither Anderson nor a co-driver was seriously injured, race officials said.

A statement issued by the officials said, in full: "Special stage four cancelled by clerk of course after pace car number two rolled on the stage and the stage was delayed. While trying to determine the extent of injuries, both drivers had their pride injured but not their bodies."

Soviet qualifier reaches last 16 at Wimbledon

LONDON (R) — Alexander Volkov Saturday became the first Soviet tennis player to reach the men's last 16 at Wimbledon since Alex Metreveli in 1975 when he beat 12th-seeded Brad Gilbert of the United States in four sets.

Ranked 503rd in the world, the lowest of any player still in the championships, Volkov won 7-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 and has now beaten five Americans in successive matches including the qualifying tournament.

Metreveli, runner-up to Jan Kodes in 1973, reached the fourth round in 1974 and 1975, and has long been the model on which later Russian players based their all-court game.

Volkov, 20, born in Kaliningrad but now living in Moscow, began his Wimbledon run with a victory over Chilean Ricardo Acuna, a quarter-finalist as recently as 1985, in the first round of the qualifying event then claimed a place in the main draw by beating Americans Brian Teacher and Bud Cox.

He has continued to make nonsense of the computer rankings in the tournament proper this week by adding the names of Larry Stefanki and Bill Scanlon to his record before tackling Gilbert on court seven.

The Soviet, playing in his first Grand Slam championship, showed no signs of being overawed either by his surroundings or by an opponent ranked 489 places above him, although he was suddenly assailed by nerves in the second set after winning the opening tiebreak 7-4.

Dressed in old-fashioned tennis "whites," which gave him an air of Wimbledon in the 1950s, Volkov otherwise bore an uncanny resemblance to Frenchman Henri Leconte, even down to his style of play.

His swinging left-handed serve was a constant problem for Gilbert, who also failed to come to grips with the Soviet's powerful two-fisted backhand and a deceptively nonchalant forehand which was a source of a stream of flashing winners.

Volkov, who also displayed delightful touch at the net, broke Gilbert in the eighth game of the third set and crucially captured the American's serve in the seventh game of the fourth.

Serving for the match at 5-4, Volkov finished it off in the classic manner with a service winner, two crisp volleys, and a clean ace.

The Russian will now meet fifth-seeded Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir or Sweden's Anders Jarfird for a place in the quarter-finals.

The Soviet Union enjoyed another success in the women's singles when 16-year-old Natalia Zvereva, the Russian number three, also reached the last 16 by beating American Ann Henricksson 6-3, 6-3.

The Minsk teenager, who beat 10th seed Lori McNeil of the United States in the second round, will now meet sixth-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini.

Helena Sukova, who shattered Martina Navratilova's English grass-court victory streak at Eastbourne a week ago, had an easier time reaching Wimbledon's fourth round at the expense of Britain's Jo Durie on Saturday.

As the tournament reverberated from the shock defeat of men's champion Boris Becker by Australian Peter Dohohan on Friday, the 13th women's seed, Barbara Potter, was trounced 6-0, 6-1 in a second-round match by 16-year-old fellow American Mary Joe Fernandez.

Czechoslovak Sukova, seeded

fourth, beat Durie 6-1, 6-3 in a 55-minute battle between two of the tallest women in tennis — 1.88 and 1.83 metres respectively — and while the favourite was rarely impressive, she was not required to be.

Durie was a pale shadow of the player who carried British hopes with her when she reached the semifinals of the 1983 French Open and climbed to number five in the world.

It was not that she missed a lot of shots, it was by how much she missed them that had observers shaking their heads at how low her game had fallen from its former heights.

Sukova, who beat Chris Evert the day before halting Navratilova's winning run on English grass at 69 matches as she won the Eastbourne event, might have expected a hard day's work when Durie won the opening game to love.

But the Briton could manage only five points in the next five games.

Briton takes early lead in European Cup

PRAGUE (R) — European champion Linford Christie of Britain beat off the challenge of his east European rivals to win the men's 100 metres on the first day of the European Cup Group A finals Saturday.

Christie was slow out of the blocks but powered past early leader Viktor Bryzgin of the Soviet Union and East German Steffen Bringmann to win in 10.23 seconds.

Bringmann was second in 10.36 and Bryzgin fell back to fourth behind Italian Pierfrancesco Pavoni.

In the women's 100 metres, Marlies Goeke of East Germany won a record sixth successive European Cup victory, clocking 10.95 seconds to beat Anelia Nuneba of Bulgaria.

There was a record too for evergreen West German Harald Schmid who won the opening men's race, the 400 metres hurdles. It was the European champion's fifth cup win, more than any male athlete has achieved.

Schmid, who led from the first hurdle, finished in 48.67 seconds. He beat Briton Max Robertson by more than a second.

There was also a sentimental return to the track for world champion and world record holder Jarmila Kratochvilova of Czechoslovakia in the women's 800 metres.

Now 36 and back in action for the first time for more than a year because of injury, she held off the challenge of East German Christine Wachel on the final straight but a late burst from Tatyana Samolenko of the Soviet Union just pipped her at the tape. Both clocked one minute 59.26 seconds.



Becker with girlfriend... too shy for the label!

W. German TV breaks broadcast schedule to assess Becker defeat

BONN (R) — West German Television broke into its normal evening schedule to discuss Friday's stunning defeat of national hero and Wimbledon champion, Boris Becker.

Most viewers said in street interviews they were upset by the 19-year-old tennis star's second round setback at the hands of unseeded Australian Peter Dohohan.

One woman, though, commented: "I don't like him. I have the feeling he's a bit too nationalistic. He's too big for his boots."

Earlier, the country's top-selling

newspaper, Bild, launched a front-page attack on a British daily for saying Becker was a sex maniac.

Bild, read in more than four million homes, said Steffi Graf, the country's top woman tennis star, was also being slighted with labels such as "Sauerkraut-Steffi" and the "blitz-krieg kid."

"In the most revolting manner, English newspapers have insulted our tennis stars Becker and Graf and are dragging them through the mud," Bild said. "Boris is being portrayed as a sex monster."

Brazil opens cup campaign against minnows Venezuela

CORDOBA, Argentina (R) — Brazil should have little trouble overcoming Venezuela, where baseball breaks outnumber soccer fans by about 10 to one, when the teams open play in Group B of the South American Cup here on Sunday.

Coach Carl Alberto Silva's new look Brazilian team, fresh from an encouraging European tour and reinforced by Italian champions Napoli's new signing Careca, are tipped to meet world champions and hosts Argentina in the final on July 12.

The Venezuelans, the poor boys of South American football who are due to arrive in Cordoba only 24 hours before the match,

cannot hope for more than a decorous showing.

The most influence they can expect to have on the group is to be the arbiters of the Brazilians' fate if Chile, the other team in the group, should hold Brazil to a draw.

Brazil, seeded for a semifinal meeting with the winners of Group C which also opens Sunday with Paraguay facing Bolivia, are well aware of this fact.

They will be keen for some shooting practice against a side that boasts in right back Antonio Torres possibly their most effective attacker.

Torres, scorer of a brilliant goal against Argentina in the World

Cup qualifiers two years ago, is noted for his darting runs down the right flank.

But if Careca, fellow World Cup striker Muller and Valdo are on song Torres will be too busy in defence to trouble goalkeeper Carlos.

Brazil, following the disappointment of losing to France on penalties in the World Cup quarter-finals in Mexico a year ago, have rebuilt their team.

The success in this tournament of a blend of young players, who earned Brazil a place in next year's Olympic tournament, and six survivors of their Mexico squad could make Silva's job safe until the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Men's title chase wide open after Becker fall-out

LONDON (R) — Suddenly, with the defeat of Boris Becker, the battle for the Wimbledon men's tennis title is a free-for-all.

Until Becker's 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 upset by Australian Peter Dohohan Friday, the 19-year-old West German was in many eyes close to a sure thing for a third

successive crown.

Now he is gone, and while he watches the rest of Wimbledon from his Monte Carlo home, a host of pretenders have become contenders.

Foremost among them is Ivan Lendl, who only just avoided Becker's fate Friday and who may now be closer to winning the title he feels he needs to justify his world number one ranking.

Swedes Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, seeded third and fourth, had their prospects enhanced by Becker's defeat, Wilander the more so because he was Becker's projected semifinal opponent.

Others such as Australian Pat Cash, a semifinalist three years ago, and American Tim Mayotte will fancy their chances more now than they did before, as will the stylish Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir.

And no one could be more

smugly satisfied than Jimmy Connors, the 1974 and 1982 champion who was narrowly beaten by Becker in the Queen's Club final two weeks ago.

Connors was earmarked for a quarter-final clash with Becker here.

Unseeded players will also be seeing a ray of hope where only a glimmer existed before. The best of them is probably Slobodan Zivojinovic, beaten by Lendl in five sets in the semifinals last year.

The big Yugoslav could now reach the last eight without playing a seed.

Lendl's third-round task Saturday was disposing of Richey Reneberg, an American qualifier and product of the tough U.S. Collegiate Circuit who almost beat Mayotte at Queen's in his first tournament as a professional.

He trailed 5-1 and 0-40 on his own serve in the second set of

that match but clawed his way back before losing the tiebreak against a slightly shell-shocked Mayotte.

Becker was one of eight seeds to lose Friday, but it was his defeat that left the tennis world reeling.

He admitted that Dohohan had outplayed him but was far from astonished to have lost, particularly at a tournament so affected by rain.

"I'm not immortal. I always knew I would lose here one day," he said. "I would have liked more practice the last two days. That made things more even today."

Late on Friday night, another of the main contenders went out. Kevin Curren, loser to Becker in the 1985 final and 16th seed this time, was defeated 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 by Johan Kriek, like Curren South African-born but now a U.S. citizen.

Europeans accept Korean pledges on Olympics

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Officials of European National Olympic Committee (ENOC) ended a two-day meeting Friday by accepting South Korea's assurances that rioting there will not affect the staging of the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

"The conference accepted the assurances of the Seoul Committee on security and there was no call for the transfer of the games to another venue," Adrien Vandenberg of the ENOC secretariat told a news conference.

"We're doing everything to ensure optimum security with minimum inconvenience for the athletes, officials and other participants," Ock-Jin Kim, secretary general of the Seoul Olympics Organising Committee, told the news conference.

He said political unrest in Korea will be settled before the games in August 1988 and "I

assure you once again the current political situation has no effect whatsoever on our preparations for the games."

The meeting was attended by 107 delegates, including the secretaries general of 21 European National Olympic Committees and other delegates and athletes' representatives.

The two-day discussions concentrated on reviewing preparations for the Seoul games and the winter Olympics to be held in Calgary, Canada.

Kim thanked the NOC representatives for "indicating to us some points that the SLOOC had not noticed and for giving us advice based on their valuable experience from past Olympics."

"We're sure that the Seoul Olympics will be the site of the harmonious reunion of East and West."

Paraguay seeks to play at home

ASUNCION (R) — The Paraguayan Tennis Association (PTA) is sending a delegation to the International Tennis Federation in London in an attempt to regain the right to play Davis Cup matches at home, a spokesman has said. Tennis association sources said they thought the resignation of PTA President Alejandro Velasquez Ugarte could clear the way for the restoration of Paraguay's right to stage home matches as part of a sanction for crowd control problems and threats against officials during its world group upset victory over the United States in March. Paraguay is scheduled to play its Davis Cup quarterfinal tie against Spain in Caracas, Venezuela, from March 24 to 26. It would have been held in Asuncion had the sanction not been imposed. The international federation is scheduled to hear the report from the three-man PTA delegation on Monday and decide whether or not it will restore the right to play at home following the match with Spain.

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PLAZA

DOWN AND OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

SLAS II

Performances 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

July 1st

Ford, V.W. in Brazil fire 4,000 workers

SAO PAULO (AP)—The local subsidiaries of Ford and Volkswagen on Friday fired 4,000 workers, saying new government taxes had provoked one of the worst crises in the 30-year history of Brazilian auto manufacturing.

Sales have been paralysed by what automakers say are excessive retail taxes and recent anti-inflationary measures that have sharply reduced the purchasing power of most Brazilians. Inflation is currently running at more than 20 per cent a month.

Some 30,000 unsold vehicles are crowding show yards at Ford, Volkswagen, General Motors and Fiat.

Ford spokesman, Mr. Luis Carlos Secco, said the company laid off 2,000 workers. Another 2,000 were dismissed at Volkswagen, said spokesman, Mr. Zenon Garrote Sierra.

The metalworkers union in Sao Bernardo Do Campo, a Sao Paulo suburb where Ford and Volkswagen are based, said weekend meetings were scheduled to decide how to respond to the dismissals.

Union spokesman, Mr. Paulo De Oliveira, said a strike could be "one way to protest the firings." He did not elaborate.

Ford plans to grant collective holidays to 13,000 workers for the first two weeks of July, while suspending all auto production during the period. Fiat, Volkswagen and General Motors announced similar measures.

Spokesmen at General Motors said there were no plans for mass dismissals, but that collective holidays would be granted to 12,000 workers.

The country's auto industry, which also includes Mercedes Benz, Saab-Scania and Volvo plants, is the 10th biggest in the world and employs more than 140,000 people.

According to the National Automakers Association, domestic sales between January and May of this year totalled 241,632 autos, about 36 per cent less than the 382,182 units sold during the same period in 1986.

"If it weren't for the taxes, the industry would not be in the mess it is in today," said association's spokesman, Mr. Claudemir Cruz Dos Santos.

"The cost of producing a car in Brazil is the lowest in the world but because of taxes the price paid by the consumer is the highest in the world," he said.

A complex set of taxes raise the final retail price of a car produced in Brazil by about 70 per cent over the pre-tax level, according to automakers.

Car exports, however, are flourishing.

Mr. Santos said 120,081 vehicles were exported during the first five months of the year, compared to 75,426 units shipped out from January to May 1986.

"This performance helps a little bit but obviously the industry cannot survive on exports alone," he said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, June 20, '87 and ending Wednesday, June 24, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	10775	13469	1.250	1.250	1.000
Petra Bank	46884	99394	2.100	2.120	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1099	2241	2.050	2.050	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	5695	9339	1.660	1.640	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	280	356	1.270	1.270	1.000
Housing Bank	10700	17655	1.650	1.650	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	600	1308	2.160	2.180	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1364	27227	21.550	20.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	685	11808	17.400	16.900	5.000
Arab Bank	370	44235	118.250	120.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	14036	35066	2.510	2.500	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	957437	960274	0.900	0.930	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	11250	13724	1.730	1.710	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	27111	20397	0.770	0.750	1.000
National Financial Investments	9732	14388	1.500	1.500	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	6228	4690	0.770	0.760	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	1040	926	0.900	0.890	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	1000	1330	1.370	1.330	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	5537	30547	5.500	5.600	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	385	339	0.880	0.880	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	8400	6972	0.820	0.830	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1750	1803	1.040	1.030	1.000
Hind and Insurance	19515	20491	1.040	1.050	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	650	429	0.730	0.660	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jenusalem Insurance	11067	15261	1.370	1.380	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	5500	4338	0.770	0.790	1.000
Universal Insurance	1000	700	0.700	0.700	1.000
General Insurance	150	207	1.380	1.380	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Talib Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Natun Abhiya Insurance	1000	1220	1.200	1.220	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	300	300	1.350	1.000	1.000
Services and industries					
Financial Facilities and Investment Development	118942	92947	1.000	0.790	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	23103	12330	0.550	0.530	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	459	306	0.690	0.660	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	5306	743	0.640	0.640	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajecro	2000	740	0.880	0.870	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	2783	4232	1.530	1.520	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	1250	1075	0.860	0.860	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	600	1680	2.750	2.800	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	5400	2350	0.450	0.430	1.000
Jordan Dairy	5641	6392	1.180	1.170	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	16236	31840	2.040	1.920	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	50420	51993	1.050	1.040	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	21255	48045	1.920	2.420	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	1325	1870	1.410	1.420	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	2159	10794	5.110	4.980	1.000
Aladun Industries	13400	13600	1.050	1.020	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	357155	654355	1.900	1.840	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	250	1088	4.400	4.350	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	200	210	1.050	1.050	1.000
Chemical Industries	8450	9246	1.200	1.200	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	2250	2991	1.340	1.330	1.000
National Steel Industries	20450	47399	2.360	2.340	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	2270	2068	1.000	0.900	1.000
General Mining	100	138	1.400	1.380	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3566	26459	7.440	7.390	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	16600	4503	0.290	0.270	1.000
National Industries	600	358	0.630	0.600	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	200	60	0.300	0.300	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	220	176	0.970	0.800	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	3470	2665	0.750	0.720	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	6000	6900	1.150	1.150	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	250	600	2.500	2.400	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	300	139	0.470	0.460	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	842	1641	1.950	1.960	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	28550	25990	0.930	0.910	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	224281	201778	0.900	0.870	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	134056	373958	3.180	3.150	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	110297	108151	0.980	0.990	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	490	441	0.920	0.900	1.000
Grand total	2,352,666	3,119,094			

Lebanon's banks move offshore for survival

BEIRUT — "We can't say we are not in a difficult time and not having problems, but we try to cope and we try to survive."

Mr. Raymond Audi, executive head of Banque Audi, one of the top four Lebanese banks, was reflecting on the precarious nature of business in Lebanon. Banking is no exception.

"A lot of banks have decided to leave," he said in an interview at an elegant mansion in Christian east Beirut which serves as his headquarters. "We can now no longer consider ourselves a financial centre."

Before civil war broke out in 1975, Beirut was a boisterous financial market. Lebanese bankers, with some justification, referred to Beirut as the Switzerland of the Middle East.

Lebanese were bankers to the oil-rich rulers of the Gulf. The oil boom of the early 1970s contributed to tremendous growth in the banking sector.

The picture now is very different. Lebanese banks have scaled down their activities, hit by a rash of bad debts and the collapse in the value of the local currency.

With typical flexibility, however, Lebanese bankers have moved their operations offshore.

Banque Audi, for example, bought a bank in Switzerland in 1975, and also has affiliated institutions in Paris and New York.

"We feel now we have something well secured abroad, if a major disaster happens here," said Mr. Audi, whose Greek Catholic family opened its first bank in the southern Lebanese trading city of Sidon 120 years ago.

Mr. Adnan Kassar, chairman of Fransabank and head of the bankers' association, said that up to 40 Lebanese banks were operating subsidiaries or joint ventures abroad. Fransabank established a joint venture bank in 1984 with Credit Agricole of France. Fransabank (France), owned 66 per cent by its parent company, returned a modest profit in its first full year of operations in 1985.

The growth in the number and activities of these offshore institutions is attributable in part to the large and often wealthy Lebanese communities who have taken refuge abroad. It is estimated that Lebanese have \$12 billion to \$16 billion deposited offshore.

Mr. Joe Fallouh, management consultant in Beirut specialising in financial services, says that offshore banks are likely to prove the saviour of the Lebanese banking sector, sections of which are in serious difficulties.

"We are right now in the valley of death," he said. "If we can hang on for a couple of years, foreign subsidiaries of local banks will be able to support parent banks."

Mr. Kassar said that one of the strengths of offshore Lebanese banks was that they had ready-made links with the Arab World which could be quickly exploited. In Lebanon itself the banking sector has held together reasonably well in spite of all the difficulties but there have been exceptions. Two small banks — First Phoenician and Capital Trust — were for a time taken under the wing of the central bank after they got into trouble.

Mr. Fallouh believes that most Lebanese banks would be in a precarious position if "rigorous balance sheet principles" were applied.

Banque Audi has taken steps to ensure it does not find itself in such a position. It raised its capital substantially in 1977 to L.L. 150 million which was a healthy sum in those days. It is now equivalent to just \$1.2 million.

The bank has also, according to Mr. Audi, built up its provisions year by year so that it has achieved a liquidity ratio in its balance sheet of 80 per cent. "We have nothing more to worry about," Mr. Audi declared.

He said, however, that the business environment in Lebanon was terrible. He complained of security problems "every day" such as robberies and forgeries. Maintaining a control system and auditing was difficult.

Banks also faced problems recouping bad debts. The courts, in a situation of near anarchy, were reluctant to give judgments against debtors. There was the allied problem that in many areas tribunals had simply ceased to function.

The massive depreciation of the Lebanese pound has had one benefit for local banks. It has helped them cope with bad debts. The negative effect is that banks and financial institutions are becoming poorer in local assets.

"Impoverishment is going too far and I don't see an end to it," said Mr. Audi sadly. Bankers are particularly worried about inflation, now running at more than 100 per cent annually.

Lebanese bankers are also highly sensitive about political developments. On the Christian

side businessmen such as Mr. Audi and Mr. Fallouh fear the consequences of the Islamic fundamentalist trend.

"It could bring us to be really slaves," said Mr. Audi. "We have to protect our (Christian) entity."

"We can't live without the Arab World," said Mr. Fallouh. "But we can't live with rules from the (mainly Muslim) western side of Beirut either, so maybe some form of decentralisation is the answer."

On one point all Lebanese bankers appear in accord, and that is in their mutual antagonism towards the central bank and its governor, Mr. Edmond Naim, who is dismissed by the banking fraternity as "a lawyer" who knows little about financial matters.

Bankers are angered by the requirement that they lodge 45 per cent of deposits in treasury bills. This is in addition to the 13 per cent of deposits which must be placed as a statutory reserve.

Funds available for lending are squeezed. Industry has suffered. "Mr. Naim's main objective," said Mr. Kassar, "is not to look at the economy as a whole, but to force banks to buy treasury bills in order to finance the activities of the state."

Government revenues have collapsed and so the deficit is funded almost totally by borrowing. Bankers have protested about the requirement but to little effect. Government officials argue that there is no alternative way of financing the deficit.

Mr. Fallouh disagrees. He argues that Lebanon's gold reserves worth about \$4 billion should be converted to interest bearing deposits which would yield sufficient income to cover most of the deficit.

Lebanese themselves have indicated their almost complete lack of confidence in the future. About three-quarters of all bank deposits are in foreign currencies.

Mr. Kassar, who insisted the health of the banking sector was basically sound, was less sanguine about the future.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swiss ambassador to Jordan, Harold Bomer, Thursday opened at the Amman Plaza Hotel an exhibition of Rado Swiss watches. The opening ceremony was attended by Amman's deputy governor, Mr. Khalid Murad. Guests toured the exhibition and were shown Rado's latest collection of Rado watches.

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YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is necessary to keep smiling despite the frustrating conditions around you. Use a creative idea to help alleviate the situation and remove doubts about your future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Ignore worries, get out socially and really shine. Use your talents and become better known as a result.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)

Botha eases conditions of detainees

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government has eased jail conditions for thousands held in a crackdown on dissent but a leading civil rights campaigner dismissed the changes as cosmetic.

President P.W. Botha Friday repealed regulations under which some 25,000 people have been detained without trial since June 1986, replacing them with new rules which give detainees similar treatment to prisoners awaiting trial.

Max Coleman, a founder of the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, a civil rights group which monitors detentions, said he saw little substance in the changes. "Detention is like apartheid. You can't reform it, you have to abolish it," he told Reuters.

He said South Africa, under pressure at home and abroad over mass detentions, was trying to give the impression it had improved prison conditions.

Coleman estimated that some 2,000 people, a third of them aged 18 or younger, were detained at present under nation-

wide emergency rule imposed a year ago to quell black protest violence.

Detainees at some prisons have gone on hunger strike. Under the new rules, detainees will be given compulsory medical examinations and will be able to write and receive letters, although these will be censored.

A disciplinary code, imposing strict penalties for minor offences such as whistling or swearing, was dropped. Detainees are still barred from receiving newspapers, food, radios or television sets.

Easing of detention regulations came as the black majority marked the 32nd anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter, a blueprint for a non-racial South Africa.

It also coincided with the end of a 14-day protest called by anti-apartheid groups to mark the

anniversary of riots which began in the township of Soweto, near Johannesburg, on June 16, 1976. The protest has passed relatively peacefully.

The nation's biggest anti-apartheid coalition, the United Democratic Front (UDF), Friday rebuffed the government, which has taken a new conciliatory stance on negotiations with blacks.

Stoffel Van Der Merwe, the minister charged with starting talks on a new constitution, said on national television this week that he was prepared to talk to jailed leaders, possibly including black nationalist Nelson Mandela.

In a dramatic change of heart by the government, he said he would not rule out talks with people associated with the UDF. But the UDF said in a statement Friday it would play no part in any solution to South Africa's political crisis which failed to implement the freedom charter, which calls for equal rights, free-

dom of speech, assembly and worship and common ownership of the country's mineral wealth. It described the government's proposed National Statutory Council, a negotiating forum to include blacks, as "the latest contraption of minority rule."

In Lusaka, Zambia, the guerrilla-backed African National Congress on Friday marked the 32nd anniversary of its "Freedom Charter" by pledging to take power in South Africa through "mass political struggle and people's war."

Outlawed in that country since 1960, the ANC reiterated its rejection of negotiations offered several times by the white-led government of President Botha. The movement said it aimed for "a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa."

Commenting on South Africa's policy of apartheid, or racial separation, the ANC said: "It is clear that between these two visions ... there can be no coexistence."

Yugoslav police evict Serb protesters

BELGRADE (R) — Belgrade police forcibly evicted hundreds of Serb protesters from the area of parliament Saturday, herding them on to buses and driving them back to Yugoslavia's ethnically-tense Kosovo province, eyewitnesses said.

They were among the more than 1,000 people who protested Friday against alleged brutalities by Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority as the ruling Communist Party Central Committee held a special plenum on the problem.

Eyewitnesses said hundreds of protesters singing, chanting threats to take up arms against the Albanians, and jeering at police, refused to leave after the plenum was abruptly cut short at about 1 a.m.

Police moved in and removed them forcibly, herding them on to buses and driving them away, they said.

The official Tanjug News Agency said the protest ended "without major incidents" and

the people were driven home.

Tanjug said the plenum adopted a resolution aimed at resolving ethnic friction between the 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and some 200,000 Serbs and Montenegrins in the province.

Informed sources said the Communist authorities, fearing the protesters would be joined by local sympathisers already swelling in numbers outside police barriers, decided to end the plenum.

2 killed during riots in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Police killed two people and injured four when they fired to stop street battles Saturday in the western city of Baroda, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

One of those killed was a woman.

PTI said two warring groups, which it did not identify, were battling in "sensitive" districts of Baroda. The city has several districts where members of the Hindu majority and the Muslim minority live side-by-side.

Violence erupted suddenly Friday night and three houses were set on fire by the rampaging crowds. Police opened fire Friday night and Saturday, PTI said. It gave no further details.

Baroda, formerly capital of a wealthy princely state, is one of the main cities in Gujarat state, which has a record of Hindu-Muslim rioting.

Meanwhile suspected terrorists gunned down three people in Punjab state, including a moderate Sikh leader, the United News of India reported Saturday.

Nirmal Singh Badla, a member of Sikh Akali Dal Party, was killed by four Sikh gunmen in his village in Hoshiarpur district Friday night, the news agency said. Badla also was a member of the Sikh Temple Management Committee.

A priest was killed in Gurdaspur district early Saturday, the agency reported. Tarlok Dass, who had worked at the Chak Sidhan village Sikh shrine for 15 years, was gunned down at point blank range by five Sikh extremists.

In another shooting, a vegetable seller was killed by three militants near Tandi village Friday night, UNI reported.

Democrats to give close scrutiny to new supreme court nominee

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats have served notice they will use their Senate majority to give Republican President Ronald Reagan's nominee close scrutiny in confirmation hearings on a successor to retiring supreme court justice Lewis F. Powell.

Powell, a moderate who has been the pivotal vote in many of the court's close decisions, Friday announced he was retiring from the United States' highest court. He has suffered from prostate cancer and will be 80 in September.

Powell's departure gives Mr. Reagan the chance to change significantly the court's ideological balance with his third appointment. His most recent appointment, naming William H. Rehnquist to replace Warren Burger as chief justice, replaced one conservative with another.

U.S. circuit court Judge Robert H. Bork and Republican Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah promptly surfaced as contenders as speculation began over a possible successor to Powell.

Two other appeals court judges, Richard A. Posner of Chicago and J. Clifford Wallace of San Diego, also were mentioned by Justice Department aides.

Senator Paul Simon, a 1988 Democratic presidential contender and member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Mr. Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese must "understand that they can't come in with any nominee and get him confirmed."

"If this was next year the president would have to sit down and work with the Senate in picking somebody whose qualifications were predominantly competence, not ideology," said Senator Patrick Leahy, another Judiciary Committee member.

"But with a year and a half to go if he wants to expend an enormous amount of political capital he can pick somebody whose qualifications are ideological rather than competence and probably get him confirmed."

Mr. Reagan's successor will be chosen in the November 1988 elections.

U.N. convention against torture comes into force

GENEVA (AP) — A United Nations convention outlawing torture and providing for international probes of abuse allegations came into force after ratification by the required 20 countries.

As the first treaty to set down international rules specifically against torture or other cruel treatment, it provides for extradition of alleged torturers to stand trial.

War or national emergencies are ruled out as a justification for torture, as is acting under orders.

The document "is a crowning of the work on human rights so far," said Jan Martenson, head of the Geneva-based U.N. Centre for Human Rights, which helped draft the convention. He also directs the U.N. office in

Geneva.

The convention does not apply to past abuses, Mr. Martenson said.

The treaty sets up a 10-member panel of experts to monitor compliance. The experts can demand that countries open their borders to an international investigation on the basis of "well founded" allegations of systematic torture. They can report their findings to the U.N. General Assembly.

A loophole allows governments to exempt themselves from the threat of a probe as part of their ratification. This step was taken by the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Bulgaria and Hungary, as well as the Byelorussian and Ukrainian Soviet Republics, which are considered separate states in the United Nations.

Waldheim returns from Rome

VIENNA (R) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim returned to Vienna from a visit to Rome, during which he met Pope John Paul II in the Vatican.

Speaking to reporters at Vienna airport, he said the Pope believed Austria had an important role to play in preserving peace in Central Europe.

"We should think over and take courage from what the Pope said about the possibilities of a small country," he said.

Dr. Waldheim did not refer directly to the controversy surrounding his Vatican audience, which was attacked by Jewish leaders and Israel because of allegations by Jewish groups of his involvement in Nazi war crimes.

He has strongly denied the allegations, which arose during the Austrian presidential election campaign last year.

Thursday's audience was his first foreign visit since he was elected.

In an interview published Saturday in the newspaper Kronen Zeitung, Dr. Waldheim said the visit strengthened his

resolve to resist calls for his resignation.

"I never thought of resigning and feel myself much stronger now," he said. "I have a mission to fulfil."

"All this talk about isolation is just an artificial construction," he added.

Meanwhile a U.S. rabbi has called for the release of all U.S. government documents pertaining to the Vatican's relationship with alleged Nazi war criminals.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, who led protest demonstrations in Rome against Dr. Waldheim's visit because of the Austrian's alleged involvement in war crimes, also said large numbers of American Jews would protest the Pope's visit to Miami in September.

Weiss, of the Hebrew Institute of New York, told reporters at New York's JFK International Airport that the Departments of Defense, State and Justice as well as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) must make public all documents "relating to what the Vatican did and did not do during World War II."

Peru names new premier

LIMA, Peru (AP) — President Alan Garcia has named Senator Guillermo Larco as the nation's prime minister to replace Luis Alva Castro, who resigned to climax a long-standing feud with Mr. Garcia.

Alva Castro, who resigned Monday, also had served as finance minister. The announcement Friday night by the government news agency Andina did not mention if Larco would take over that portfolio. He currently serves as head of the Senate Armed Forces Committee.

Most of the other ministers formally resigned with Mr. Alva Castro but were expected to be renamed when Mr. Garcia presents his state-of-the-nation address on July 28.

Mr. Alva Castro, who is manoeuvring to become the Aprista Party's candidate in the 1990 presidential elections, had sought to quit for several months but the

move was blocked by Mr. Garcia, who said he wanted to maintain continuity in economic planning.

Meanwhile a new law took effect Friday that gives women who work in the home the same rights to Social Security benefits as people with paying jobs.

The measure classifies married or unmarried mothers who work at home as independent labourers and entitles them to the health insurance and pension programmes offered through the social security system.

Previously, only the wives of workers who paid into the system were covered.

Women interviewed by Lima newspapers supported the measure.

"We work without rest, vacation or diversion," said Julia Ramos, a housewife. "This law should have been passed a long time ago."

U.N. conference on drugs vows to take concrete action

VIENNA (R) — A United Nations conference on fighting drug abuse has wound up with 138 nations expressing determination to turn good intentions into concrete action.

Delegates said there was a new cooperative spirit among both producer and consumer countries, with Eastern and Western nations acknowledging that no one is immune any longer from addiction problems and the enormous power of the drug barons.

"We came here half expecting another U.N. talking shop. We got a pleasant surprise," said West European delegate.

One of the best examples of concrete action against drugs is Bolivia's three-year plan to wipe out its coca plantations, which supply up to half the world's cocaine.

West Germany, Italy and Britain have announced support for the \$300-million plan.

But behind-the-scenes talks between Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal and U.S.

Assistant Secretary of State Ann Wroblewski revealed strains between La Paz and Washington, the plan's biggest potential sponsor by far.

Ms. Wroblewski said Bolivia must push ahead with eradicating coca bushes if it wanted to secure a \$75-million aid deal. But Mr. Bedregal said that destroying crops alone would rob peasants of their livelihood and could trigger guerrilla warfare in his country, among the Western hemisphere's poorest.

Columbia already faces a serious threat to law and order from well-armed private armies sponsored by powerful drug barons.

Delegates said the deal would probably go through.

Closing the meeting Friday, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad said: "The next important question we need to ask ourselves is whether we, as the international community, can translate our political commitment into effective and sustainable action."

GOVERNOR BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF © 1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

X IS FOR (H)EXAGON SQUEEZE

NORTH
♦ J 106
♦ J 10533
♦ 10
♦ A942

WEST
♦ 94
♦ 987
♦ QJ98
♦ 10876

EAST
♦ K55
♦ KQ4
♦ 7543
♦ QJ5

SOUTH
♦ A Q732
♦ A6
♦ A K62
♦ K3

cross to the ten of trumps and lead the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and won with the ace. Draw the last trump to bring about this position:

NORTH
♦ —
♦ 1053
♦ —
♦ A94

WEST
♦ —
♦ 98
♦ QJ
♦ 108

EAST
♦ —
♦ K4
♦ 75
♦ QJ

SOUTH
♦ 73
♦ 6
♦ A6
♦ K3

We round out our bridge player's dictionary with a double-dummy problem composed by the great Robert Darvas, to represent XYZ. Against your contract of six spades, West leads the six of clubs. You must make 12 tricks against any defense.

The name hexagon squeeze was originated by George S. Coffin. In it, each of the three menaces is guarded by both opponents.

Win the king of clubs, cash the king of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Now lead the jack of spades. If East ducks, cash the ace of clubs and ruff a club. Play off the ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond and lead a club from dummy. It does not help East to ruff, so he discards a heart (best). Ace of hearts and another then end plays East for a trump return.

If East covers the jack of spades with the king, you take the ace.

When you lead a trump, you discard a heart from North. West cannot let go a heart. If he shuffs a diamond, East must part with a club. Play your last trump. West must discard his remaining diamond and East his last heart. Cross to the ace of clubs and throw East in with a heart to force a diamond return from the 7-6 into the A-6 tenace.

If, instead, West pitches a club in the diagrammed position, East must let go a diamond. Cash the ace of clubs and ruff a club, forcing a heart discard from West. Take the ace of diamonds and lead a heart, picking up West's heart as East wins the king. East must present dummy with a heart trick to fulfill the slam.

Police surround Dhaka University after clash

DAHAKA (R) — Six-thousand riot police surrounded Bangladesh's premier Dhaka University Saturday after rival students fought with guns and petrol bombs over a leadership row.

Police said nearly two hours of battles on the university campus Friday left 10 students seriously hurt, three motor cycles burnt and some office buildings damaged.

All roads to the university were closed to traffic after the riot police surrounded the four-

square-mile (10.4-sq. kilometre) campus in the heart of Bangladesh's capital city.

Vice-Chancellor Abdul Mannan told Reuters he was considering shutting the university indefinitely and asking all students to vacate their halls of residence.

"Let us see if sanity returns or not. Otherwise, the option is there," he said.

The fighting climaxed a row between two student groups, the pro-government Jatiya Chhatra

Samaj and the opposition Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, over the leadership control of Surya Sen and Mohsin Halls, which house nearly 8,000 students.

Witnesses said both groups fired shots from submachine guns and hurled petrol bombs at each other until police arrived to restore order. No one was arrested.

Dhaka University is traditionally regarded as Bangladesh's political hot spot and the centre of all political movements.

Gorbachev strengthens his leadership

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Communist Party leaders have shown they are divided on how to revive their stagnant economy, but Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has strengthened his hand with the promotion of three allies, analysts said Saturday.

Mr. Gorbachev pledged his commitment to tough, sweeping economic reform at a Central Committee meeting this week, and consolidated his power base with the election of three key aides as full members of the ruling politburo, they said.

But a leading economist who attended the meeting said the policy-setting body of slightly more than 300 members had not been unanimous on how to inject new life into the economy.

Abel Aganbeyan, an adviser to Mr. Gorbachev, said the committee was united on the need for reform.

"But there were quite a lot of emotional speeches, people voiced criticisms and disagreements," he said.

Mr. Aganbeyan, a champion of reform, told a news conference he personally had not agreed with every part of a draft economic law presented by the committee to reduce central control of factories and inspire managerial in-

itiative.

The law is due to be approved by the Supreme Soviet (parliament) next week and come into force in January.

Mr. Gorbachev, closing the two-day meeting, said there had been a "free and businesslike discussion" — a phrase often used to indicate differing views.

Foreign analysts said Mr. Aganbeyan's comments pointed to some opposition to Mr. Gorbachev in the Central Committee, almost 60 per cent of whose members were appointed before Mr. Gorbachev took office in March 1985.

But they said the promotion to the full politburo of Alexander Yakovlev, Nikolai Siyunkov and Viktor Nikonov, with respective backgrounds in ideology, economic administration and agriculture, had bolstered Mr. Gorbachev's position.

The analysts, noting that eight of the 14 full politburo members had been appointed since Mr. Gorbachev became party leader in 1985, said he appeared to be more in command of the top party ranks than at any time since he took office.

All were appointed to the party secretariat under Mr. Gorbachev

and are considered among his closest advisers on plans for stimulating the economy and pursuing social reform.

No removals from the politburo were reported. There had been widespread speculation that Geidar A. Aliev, who has been absent from several major leadership meetings in recent months, was in poor health or political trouble.

In his closing address on Friday, the 56-year-old Kremlin leader declared: "We have full reason to say that the plenary meeting has justified the hopes of Communists, of all Soviet people."

The official news agency TASS said the Supreme Soviet, the highest Soviet state body, later expressed satisfaction with the results of the Central Committee meeting.

The presidium, chaired by President Andrei Gromyko, discussed and approved the agenda for its summer session, which takes place next week, TASS added.

The Supreme Soviet, which is also due to discuss a draft law aimed at improving citizens' legal rights, generally unanimously approves all measures put before it by the ruling party.

COLUMNS 768

4-day-old panda dies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Giant panda Ling-Ling's tiny 4-day-old cub died just before midnight Friday, said national zoo officials. The cub's squeals were last heard at about 11:41 p.m. and the mother panda put the cub down and went into an adjoining room 15 minutes later, zoo spokesman Robert Hoage said in a news release Saturday. The cub did not vocalise as it had previously done whenever it had been briefly separated from Ling-Ling. At 12:05 a.m. Ling-Ling picked up the cub, licked and cradled it, but again there was no sound and the infant appeared motionless. Zookeepers then permitted the mother panda to enter an outdoor enclosure and removed the cub at 1:43 a.m. The dead cub was a female. Officials had been monitoring the progress of the cub via closed-circuit television and had been unable to determine its sex earlier. "We feel we did just about everything we could to ensure that the mother and the cub would do as well as possible, but that nature has a way of taking things into her own hands," Hoage said. Mother and cub had appeared in good health Friday and zoo officials were optimistic that the cub would indeed become the first giant panda bred in captivity in the United States.

Perfume unclaimed for 2 years

MOSCOW (R) — French perfume, worth millions of dollars, has been stored unclaimed in a Leningrad warehouse for more than two years, a Soviet newspaper has said. The weekly Nedelnya said the two-million roubles (\$2.9 million) cargo was unloaded from the cargo ship Magmitogorsk in December 1984 but was never claimed despite the big demand for perfume in the Soviet Union. The perfume was discovered in March and Soviet lawyers were investigating the case, the newspaper said.

Pisa tower leans a bit more

PISA, Italy (AP) — The Leaning Tower of Pisa leaned another 1.30 millimetres (.052 inches) in the last 12 months, slightly more than the previous period, two Italian professors reported. The annual measurements on the 814-year-old marble landmark were conducted in the last week by Geni Gero and Brunetto Palla, professors at the University of Pisa. They said the tilt increased slightly over the 1.28 millimetres (.051 inches) recorded from June 1985 to June 1986. The professors gave no explanation for the slight increase, but said it was not alarming. The tower, begun in 1173, started to tilt almost immediately after it was built because the ground shifted underneath. It leans around 5.1 metres off the perpendicular.

Renoir painting sold for \$900,000

PARIS (R) — A painting by French impressionist Auguste Renoir has fetched 5.35 million francs (\$900,000) at a Paris auction. The oil painting, "Femme En Bleu Dans Le Jardin De Saint Cloud," (woman in blue in the garden at Saint Cloud), was painted in 1899. Officials at the Paris Hotel Drouot auction house declined to name the buyer.

'Americans losing morality, patriotism'

WASHINGTON (R) — The retiring head of the Marine Corps General P.X. Kelley has said young Americans are losing moral fibre and patriotism because of flag-burning protests, Watergate, working mothers and lack of religion in public schools. With 20 rows of colourful military ribbons on his left breast and four silver stars glinting on each dark green uniform shoulder, Gen. Kelley suggested that recent spy scandals and other events point to a moral breakdown in America. "It's there. It's latent. It's waiting — the problem with this moral fibre deterioration. I think it could become epidemic," he told reporters at a breakfast meeting. Kelley, 58, retires Sunday as the nation's top Marine and a member of the Pentagon Joint Chiefs of Staff. He said American children watched television and wondered as U.S. flags were burned in Washington to protest the Vietnam war, watched President Nixon resign in the Watergate scandal, and are now taught morals "by some nameless, faceless child care centre" because half of American mothers work. God, he also said, has been taken out of schools.

Chinese discover dinosaur fossils

PEKING (R) — Chinese scientists have discovered the fossil of a previously unknown type of dinosaur which lived in inner Mongolia more than 130 million years ago, the New China News Agency has said. They have named the animal, which was 21 metres long and almost six metres tall, Qagan Nur Dinosaur after the site of a soda factory where it was found.

Flushes substituted for blushes

TOKYO (R) — A prolonged drought is boosting sales of a device which imitates the sound of a flushing toilet — and spurs Japanese women's blushes. With Tokyo facing water restrictions for the first time this decade, more offices are installing the devices to discourage excessive toilet flushing, according to a city official. The main targets are fastidious Japanese women, probably the world's most enthusiastic flushers. Each time a Japanese woman visits a public toilet, she usually flushes three times. "The first is to ensure the toilet is nice and clean, the second is to cover any embarrassing sounds and the third is to leave it clean for the next person," said one young office worker. Shiseido, Japan's largest cosmetic maker, has installed 17 of the devices in the women's toilets in its Tokyo headquarters, a spokeswoman said. "I think we reduced our flushing to one time," she said. The device, which costs about 10,000 yen (\$68) makes a flushing sound at the touch of a button, she said.

Scientists develop AIDS treatment

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli scientists have developed a chemical compound which may prolong the lives of cancer and AIDS suffering, a spokesman for Bar Ilan University has said. The substance, codenamed AS101, stimulates the body to fight infection. It had been tested in Mexico on patients suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), who seemed to be doing well a year later, Professor Shmuel Salzman said. AS101 stimulates the immune system to produce lymphocytes, which resist disease. Tests on mice at Bar Ilan and in the United States also showed AS101 to be effective against cancer, he said. The scientists were awaiting permission from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to begin testing on AIDS patients in the United States, he said. The two researchers who developed the compound, Professor Michael Albeck and Professor Benjamin Fredni, were not available for comment.

Rubber condoms help industry

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A boom in the use of condoms and gloves due to the worldwide fear of AIDS has bolstered the rubber industry, according to a senior minister from Malaysia, the world's largest producer of natural rubber. Malaysian Minister of Primary Industries Dato Dr. Lim Keng Yait told a news conference "the demand for latex concentrate, which gloves and condoms are made of, is at a premium" because of fear of the spread of AIDS. Many health officials have said that wearing rubber gloves and condoms may prevent or curtail the spread of AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Lim said AIDS was affecting mainly the natural rubber market because synthetic rubber is too expensive for condoms and gloves. "I think the price of rubber has been quite steady and bullish in a way because of this increased demand for natural rubber — as one of the factors of the AIDS scare," Lim said without citing statistics.